MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF THE

GENERAL COUNCIL

OF THE

EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH

Hotel Cleveland, Cleveland, Ohio, October 23 & 24, 1956

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RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

The meeting of the General Council was attended by the following members: Dr. James E. Wagner, chairman; Dr. W. Sherman Kerschner, secretary; Mr. Allan G. Aigler, Mr. Samuel C. Bond, Jr., Mr. Carl Bosch, Mrs. E. Roy Corman, Dr. Albert G. Gonser, Dr. John R. C. Haas, Dr. Ben M. Herbster, Dr. F. A. Keck, Dr. Erwin R. Koch, Dr. Emil N. Krafft, Mrs. Milton C. Lang, Dr. John Lentz, Dr. Roy W. Limbert, Dr. Robert C. Stanger, Mr. Harold F. Webber, Mr. Joseph C. Wetzel.

Dr. Harry D. Althouse, Mr. Herbert W. Beutel and Dr. John W. Mueller were unavoidable absent.

Present by invitation, and with the privilege of voice in the proceedings, were Dr. Sheldon E. Mackey, Secretary-elect of the Church and of the General Council, and Drs. Donald C. Dearborn, John W. Flucke and John L. Schmidt, members-elect of the General Council.

The President Emeritus of the Church, Dr. L. W. Goebel, attended the sessions on the second day of the meeting.

Drs. Carl W. Klein and L. C. T. Miller of the Department of United Promotion were present as guests.

The General Council convened on Tuesday, October 23, at 9:30 a.m. President Wagner read the first chapter of the Epistle to the Ephesians and offered prayer.

At the conclusion of the devotional period Dr. Wagner read a letter from Mrs. George W. Richards expressing her appreciation of the flowere sent to her by the General Synod while in session at Franklin and Marshall College last month.

AGENDA

Dr. Wagner stated that because of the special nature of this meeting of the General Council no formal agenda had been prepared. There were, however, three documents to be considered: the report of the President, a memorandum of items in the General Council and Administrative Committee minutes which required the attention of the General Council, and a compilation of references from the 1956 General Synod to the General Council. He suggested that the documents be taken up in the order in which he had named them. The General Council acquiesced.

HOURS FOR THE SESSIONS

The General Council accepted a proposal of the chairman that the morning's plenary session be followed by committee meetings in the afternoon and possibly in the evening, and that plenary sessions be resumed the following day. It was understood that this arrangement was subject to change, should circumstances so require.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

After naming as the Committee on the Report of the President Dr. Gonser, Mrs. Lang and Dr. Lentz, Dr. Wagner yielded the chairmanship of the meeting to the First Vice-President, Dr. Stanger, and presented his report as President of the Church. (Copy appended, together with various addenda) The General Council VOTED to receive the report and refer it and the addenda concerning applicants for privilege of call or its renewal to the Committee on the Report of the President.

ACCESS TO THE SAFE DEPOSIT BOX OF THE CHURCH

Dr. Wagner stated that the Mercantile Trust Company of St. Louis, Mo., had requested that the General Council pass a resolution certifying that the persons named therein had been authorized to have access to the safe deposit box of the Church. Dr. Mueller, Dr. Keck and Dr. Goebel had previously been authorized, but the retirement of Dr. Goebel had necessitated a new action on the part of the General Council. The General Council by common consent adopted the following motion:

> RESOLVED, That access to safe (no. C-9043) in the vaults of the Mercantile Trust Company, standing in the name of this corporation, shall be by any two of the following individuals: John W. Mueller, F. A. Keck, James E. Wagner, Joseph C. Wetzel.

It was understood that if his health permitted, the Treasurer of the Church would always be one of the two individuals who opened the box.

MINUTES

Secretary Kerschner presented the minutes of the General Council and Administrative Committee meetings which had been held since the first of the year and called attention to matters which required consideration and, in some instances, action by the General Council.

Administrative Committee, February 6, 1956

Immanuel Church, Baltimore, Md. (p. 1). Dr. Wagner reported that he had been informed by the office of the district Director of Internal Revenue that the tax exemption certificate of the Evangelical and Reformed Church was applicable not only to the General Synod and its boards and agencies but also to the synods and congregations, and that upon receipt of this information he had furnished a copy of the certificate to every synod president.

First Church, Portland, Oreg. (p. 2). Dr. Wagner stated that legal proceedings had been initiated in this matter. The case will probably come up for further hearing next spring. The Synodical Council of Pacific Northwest Synod is very desirous that the counselor of the Church attend the hearing.

The General Council noted that the minutes of this meeting of the Administrative Committee had been adopted last February.

General Council, February 7-9, 1956

Protestant Orphans' Home, Louisville, Ky. (p. 2). The consideration of this matter was deferred until such time as the counselor could be present and report upon it.

Dates for the next meeting of the General Council (p. 16, item 20. Item 20 was corrected to read as follows: "The General Council reaffirms February 4-7, 1957 as the dates for its meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio."

Committee on Allocations to the Educational Institutions (p. 26, item 16). It was the judgment of the General Council that this committee should be composed of seven persons. The appointment of the committee was referred to the Administrative Committee with power.

It was VOTED to adopt the minutes of the General Council meeting held February 7-9, 1956.

Administrative Committee, March 5, 1956

Ordination of seminary seniors planning to continue immediately in graduate study (p. 1, item 1). The General Council VOTED to endorse the policy approved by the Administrative Committee.

The Council VOTED to adopt the minutes of the Administrative Committee meeting held March 5, 1956.

General Council, April 5, 1956

The General Council VOTED to adopt the minutes of this meeting.

Administrative Committee, April 5, 1956

Privilege of call (p. 1). Dr. Wagner reported that Rev. William Staszeski had declined to accept the privilege of call and the special ministry for which he had been considered.

The General Council VOTED to adopt the minutes of the Administrative Committee meeting held April 5, 1956.

Administrative Committee, May 28, 1956

Seal of the Church (p. 2). The General Council VOTED to approve the inclusion of the seal of the Church in the corporate seals of congregations, after the pattern designed by Eden Publishing House.

Relationship of our hospitals to the Church (p. 5). The Council VOTED that the proposal of the Commission on Benevolent Institutions concerning the relationship of our Church to its hospitals should be studied by a committee composed of representatives from each of the following bodies: the General Council, the Commission on Church and Ministry (Committee on Religion and Health), and the Commission on Benevolent Institutions.

Casualty insurance (p. 5). Dr. Mackey reported that he had sent copies of the accident insurance policy of the Educators' Insurance Company of Lancaster, Pa., to all individuals covered by it and had requested that he be informed of changes in the categories and salaries of these persons, since the benefit payable under this policy is based upon the salary of the beneficiary.

Forms (p. 5). Dr. Keck stated that the two forms prepared by the Board of Investments for the acknowledgment of investment funds had been approved by the counselor and were being printed.

Hungarian Chair at Elmhurst College (p. 6). Dr. Wagner stated that he had been in correspondence with the executive secretary of the Board of National Missions regarding this matter.

Licensure and ordination of Wayne Hargrave (p. 7). The General Council VOTED to confirm the action of the Administrative Committee approving the licensure and ordination of Mr. Hargrave.

The General Council VOTED to adopt the minutes of the Administrative Committee meeting held May 28, 1956.

General Council, August 31, 1956

The General Council VOTED to adopt the minutes of this meeting.

Administrative Committee, September 1, 1956

Privilege of call (p. 1). The General Council VOTED to confirm the privilege of call granted by the Administrative Committee to Revs. Louis Gasper, Clayton Harding Chapman, Mervin A. Heller and M. Earle McCullough.

The Council VOTED to adopt the minutes of the Administrative Committee meeting held September 1, 1956.

REFERENCES FROM THE 1956 GENERAL SYNOD

The General Council next took under consideration the matters which had been referred to it by the 1956 General Synod. (Copy of the document appended)

A. Elections and appointments

I. Ecumenical representatives

a. American Bible Society

It was VOTED to authorize the President, in consultation with the Administrative Committee, to appoint two persons to represent our Church on the Advisory Council of the American Bible Society.

b. Lord's Day Alliance

It was VOTED to elect Rev. H. Jerome Leinbach as the representative of our Church on the Board of Managers of the Lord's Day Alliance

c. National Council of Churches

1. ~~Biennial~~ Triennial Assembly, 1957

The election of our delegates and alternates was deferred pending information as to the number allotted to the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

2. General Board

It was VOTED to authorize the President, in consultation with the Administrative Committee, to appoint our representatives and alternates.

d. Alliance of Reformed Churches

1. North American Area Council

It was VOTED to authorize the President, in consultation with the Administrative Committee, to appoint our delegates.

REFERENCES FROM THE 1956 GENERAL SYNOD (cont.)

2. General Council, 1959

Action was deferred pending information as to the number of delegates allotted to our Church.

e. World Council of Churches

1. United States Conference

It was VOTED that the delegation which represented our Church at the Evanston Assembly constitute our representatives to the United States Conference.

2. Third Assembly, 1960

The election of our delegates and accredited visitors was deferred.

II. Special committees

a. Committee on the Programs and Needs of the Theological Seminaries

By common consent the appointment of this committee was referred to the Administrative Committee with power. It was the judgment of the General Council that the committee should be composed of seven members and that the persons chosen should not be officially connected with any of our theological seminaries but should be directed to confer with appropriate representatives of the seminaries in making their study.

b. Committee on the Future of the Deaconess Order

It was agreed that this committee should be composed of seven persons. It was VOTED to refer the appointment of the committee to the Administrative Committee with power.

c. Committee on the Care of the Mentally Ill and the Mentally Retarded

It was VOTED that this be a committee of nine and that the President be authorized to appoint the personnel in consultation with the Commission on Benevolent Institutions and the Commission on Church and Ministry.

d. Committee on the Parochial Report Form

It was VOTED to refer this item to the incoming Secretary of the Church.

REFERENCES FROM THE 1956 GENERAL SYNOD (cont.)

B. Union churches

It was VOTED that a conference should be held for the purpose of formulating a policy and plan of action in regard to the matter of union churches, and that the participants in this conference should be the members of the Union Church Committee of the Board of National Missions, the presidents of the Pennsylvania synods (exclusive of Pittsburgh Synod, in which there are no union churches), the president of Potomac Synod, and possibly three representatives of the General Council.

C. Revised edition of the Constitution and By-Laws

It was VOTED to refer the matter of a revised edition of the Constitution and By-Laws to the Committee on Constitutional Matters and to call attention to the editorial privileges granted the committee by the General Synod.

D. Recommendations of the Committee on Nominations

The recommendations of the General Synod's Nominating Committee were acted upon as follows:

I. It was VOTED to request the President to inform the boards, commissions, agencies and synods of the Church that when recommending persons to the Nominating Committee they should not seek to commit that body to nominate those persons for election by the General Synod.

II. It was VOTED to refer to the Committee on Constitutional Matters (a) the recommendation that the same geographical qualifications which apply to membership on the General Council apply also to membership on boards, commissions and agencies of the Church, and (b) the recommendation that a clarifying statement be made regarding the tenure of office of members of the boards of the educational institutions of the Church.

III. It was VOTED to refer to the incoming Secretary of the Church the recommendation that the presidents of the synods be instructed (a) to state the qualifications of persons whom they recommend to the General Synod's Nominating Committee, and (b) not to attempt to submit a name for every vacancy to be filled by the General Synod.

E. Financial items

It was VOTED to refer these ten items to the Committee on Finance and Budget.

F. Twenty-fifth anniversary of the Church

It was VOTED to defer action on this reference until the 1957 fall meeting of the General Council.

G. Next meeting of the General Synod

It was VOTED to defer action on the matters of the date and the place for the next meeting of the General Synod.

REFERENCES FROM THE 1956 GENERAL SYNOD (concl.)

H. The Union

It was VOTED to defer until the 1957 annual meeting of the General Council the matter of appointing the 15 Evangelical and Reformed members of the joint Nominating Committee for the first meeting of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

ELECTIONS NOT REFERRED BY THE GENERAL SYNOD

The General Council noted that in addition to the elections referred to it by the General Synod there were others for which it was responsible.

Board of Investments. The Council elected Rev. Walter K. Klein, Mr. Elmer H. Tiedemann and Mr. Louis H. Goebel to serve for six years as members of the Board of Investments.

Commission on Stewardship. After discussing a conflict between By-Law 109b, which provides that members of the General Council shall not be eligible as members of boards, commissions or boards of auxiliary organizations of the Church, and By-Law 135, which provides that the Committee on Correlation and Promotion shall be represented on the Commission on Stewardship, the General Council VOTED to adopt the following resolution:

> In view of the fact that the original intent of By-Law 135 was to provide for the representation of the Department of United Promotion on the Commission on Stewardship, but that due to a combination of circumstances the Committee on Correlation and Promotion was named in the By-Law, the General Council believes it is acting in accord with the original intent in authorizing the Committee on Correlation and Promotion to appoint a member of the staff of the Department of United Promotion to serve as a member of the Commission on Stewardship. The General Council refers the conflict between By-Law 109b and By-Law 135 to the Committee on Constitutional Matters for rectification.

Historical Committee. It was VOTED to reelect the entire personnel of this committee subject to their acceptance, and if any do not accept, to authorize the President to name their successors in consultation with the committee.

Committee on Liturgics. It was VOTED to reelect the members of this committee with the possible exception of Mr. John Fesperman, in which event the President, in consultation with the committee, shall name a successor to Mr. Fesperman.

Committee on the Year Book. By common consent Dr. Sheldon E. Mackey, Dr. L. C. T. Miller and Mr. Frederic P. Bromer were elected as the General Council's representatives on the Committee on the Year Book. The other members are to be chosen by the Board of Business Management.

Theological Committee. Action on this matter was taken later in the meeting.

APPROVAL OF ELECTIONS

Board of Pensions and Relief. It was VOTED to approve the election of Dr. A. Augustus Welsh and Mr. Charles E. Miller, Jr., as members of the Board of Pensions and Relief for three years and the election of Messrs. Clifford G. Dennis, Jr. and John N. Schaeffer, Jr. as members of the board for six years.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

The General Council discussed the duties of the Standing Committee on Nominations for which provision is made in By-Law 87i. Dr. Herbster stated that the former Study Committee, when recommending to the 1953 General Synod that a Standing Committee on Nominations be created, had not intended that the committee should make nominations during the triennium but that it should gather information concerning persons in our Church who were competent to render service in various areas of the work of the denomination, and that, upon request, it should report the names and qualifications of such persons when elections or appointments were to be made. The General Council VOTED that Dr. Herbster, on the basis of his experience as chairman of the Study Committee, should prepare a statement on the functions of the Standing Committee on Nominations, and that the President should transmit the statement to the Standing Committee and to the boards, commissions, agencies and synods of the Church for their information.

BOARD FOR HOME MISSIONS, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Dr. Wagner informed the General Council that on the evening of Monday, October 22, the Administrative Committee and its members-elect had met informally with Drs. Truman B. Douglass, Howard E. Spragg and William F. Frazier of the Congregational Christian Board of Home Missions for the purpose of discussing the implications of the General Synod's resolution that pending the adoption of the Constitution and By-Laws of the United Church of Christ the present structure, policies, programs and procedures of the Congregational Christian Churches and the present structure, policies, programs and procedures of the Evangelical and Reformed Church should be continued. To the three Congregational Christian leaders this action of the General Synod appeared to rule out all possibility of interim cooperation on the part of the Board of Home Missions and its Evangelical and Reformed counterparts and all joint consultations with a view to implementing Article VIII of the Basis of Union. The discussion of this matter had been very fruitful: it had satisfied the Congregational Christian representatives that cooperative effort looking toward the organization of the Board for Home Missions of the United Church was entirely possible; in addition, it had allayed certain doubts and misgivings on the part of the Administrative Committee. Following the departure of the Congregational Christian representatives the Administrative Committee had continued in session and had agreed to recommend to the General Council that a committee of four members of the Administrative Committee and three representatives of the boards and agencies having a major interest in the Board for Home Missions of the United Church of Christ be appointed to confer with a committee of seven from the Congregational Christian Churches on matters pertaining to the Board for Home Missions of the United Church. The Administrative Committee recommended that Dr. Herbster, Dr. Mueller, Mr. Aigler, Dr. Haas and Drs. Franklin I. Sheeder, Purd E. Deitz and Fred C. Schweinfurth be appointed as our committee. The General Council VOTED to adopt the recommendations of the Administrative Committee and to empower the Administrative Committee to act in behalf of the General Council on any proposals coming from the joint consultations of the two committees of seven.

A recess was taken from 12:40 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. In the afternoon and evening the General Council met as committees.

Wednesday, October 24

The General Council reassembled in plenary session at 9:05 a.m.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Dr. Wagner called attention to a series of biographical sketches of the members of the Congregational Christian Executive Committee, copies of which had been distributed to the members of our General Council. It was agreed that the President's office should secure biographical data from the members of our General Council for inclusion in a similar document to be made available to the members of the Congregational Christian Executive Committee.

APPROVAL OF ELECTIONS

Board of Christian Education and Publication. It was VOTED to approve the election of Rev. Ernst H. Nussman and Rev. Dale E. Boyer as members of the Board of Christian Education and Publication.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CORRELATION AND PROMOTION

Dr. Stanger, chairman of the Committee on Correlation and Promotion, presented the committee's report. It was acted upon item by item. Item 4 was deleted, necessitating the renumbering of all subsequent items. Item 1 and items 4, 7 and 8 (originally numbered 5, 8 and 9) were amended and adopted as amended. The other items were adopted without change.

The report as adopted is as follows:

1. The General Council requests the Cabinet on Correlation and Promotion to give serious attention to the matter of the multiplicity of synodical and regional meetings, such as clinics, workshops, etc., occasioned by the program and outreach of the boards and agencies of the Church.

2. It is the judgment of the General Council that the boards and agencies zoned to a synod in a particular year are the only boards and agencies which should present their programs to that synod in that year, and that boards and agencies should not send representatives to a synod to which they are not zoned.

3. The General Council urges the Treasurer of the Church and all boards and agencies of the Church to retain the ministers emeriti on their mailing lists.

4. The General Council requests the Committee on Finance and Budget to apply the balance of the current triennium's maximum allotment of $80,000 for the Advance film to the production of the joint E & R and CC film for 1957-1958 on Church Membership.

5. The General Council believes that any quotas assigned to our denomination for the support of the Department of Social Welfare of the National Council of Churches should be channeled through the Commission on Christian Social Action and the Commission on Benevolent Institutions as the agencies most directly related to this Department.

6. (a) The General Council directs the Committee on Correlation and Promotion to investigate the matter of securing personnel for fund raising activities within the Department of United Promotion.

(b) The General Council requests the Committee on Correlation and Promotion to consult with the Congregational Christian persons concerned in this field of fund raising.

7. The General Council recommends that ordinarily World Service be promoted through the synodical Committees on United Promotion. The General Council refers to the Committee on Constitutional Matters the idea of deleting the Committee on World Service from the list of synodical committees (By-Laws 62-IX and 81a).

8. The General Council directs that for the triennium 1960-1962 a brochure on the total program of the Church be produced, similar in nature to the brochure for the Advance Program.

9. The General Council directs that the basic materials provided by all the boards and agencies of the Church be issued in loose-leaf format, under one cover, and that a specific number be assigned to the materials of each board or agency, and that a loose-leaf binder be provided by the Department of United Promotion.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND BUDGET

The report of the Committee on Finance and Budget was presented by the chairman pro tempore, Dr. Haas. Items 1, 3, 5, 7, 14 and 22 were amended and adopted as amended. The remaining items were adopted without change. An additional item was adopted as the concluding item of the report.

The report as adopted is as follows:

1. The General Council rejoices in the report of the Treasurer informing us that he estimates our Apportionment fund will show an increase of about 5% or approximately $150,000 over last year.

2. The General Council acknowledges the receipt of the audited reports of all boards, commissions and agencies for the year 1955. The reports have been reviewed by the Committee on Finance and Budget. All questions pertaining thereto are in process of being clarified by personal conference with all agencies.

3. The General Council reiterates its disapproval of the payment of honoraria and bonuses by the boards, commissions and agencies to members of their staffs.

4. The General Council instructs the Commission on Church and Ministry to encourage synodical committees to assume as far as possible the expenses of their chairmen in attending the annual conference.

5. The General Council appreciates the careful and complete tabulation of 1955 contributions of all our agencies to various units of the National Council of Churches, as prepared by the President of the Church, expresses its satisfaction that our contributions compare very favorably with those from other denominations, and rejoices at the information that many other denominations are bringing their contributions up to a more equitable proportionate share of the total. (A copy of the tabulation is appended to these minutes.)

6. The General Council authorizes the payment of $9,025 for the World Council headquarters building quota from the 1956 overage.

7. The General Council authorizes the Treasurer to make a temporary advance to the Bureau of Audio-Visual Aids of such funds necessary for the completion of production and distribution of the Wehrli films and distribution of the booklet "The Bible Speaks", to be reimbursed from the Bureau's 1957 appropriation.

8. The General Council notes that items referring to deficits of Church papers are adquately provided for in the budget.

9. The General Council defers action on the investment policy for the Board of Investments until the February meeting.

10. The General Council notes that payment to schools of higher education is set at $640,023 in the budget; therefore, the authorization for $650,000 referred by the General Synod is void.

11. The General Council calls the attention of the Board of Pensions and Relief and the Commission on Church and Ministry to the directive of the General Synod to determine the eligibility of military chaplains as members of the Ministers' Retirement Annuity Fund.

12. The General Council directs the Treasurer to remit to Lakeland College the sum of $65,000 out of the interest on the Church's Emergency Reserve Fund as soon as possible after January 1, 1957.

13. The General Council directs the Treasurer to make proper allocations to the Emergency Reserve Fund from accumulated interest income, looking forward to reaching a maximum of 50% of the guaranteed advance for any given year.

14. The General Council directs the Treasurer to advance from the 1956 overage the sum of $1,000 to the National Council of Churches to finance the exchange of visits with Church leaders of Russia.

15. The General Council directs the Commission on Church and Ministry, in view of the upward adjustment of its budget for the triennium, to assume priority contributions of $500 for general administrative expense of the Central Department of Ecumenical Relations and $750 to the Joint Department of Christian Vocation, both agencies of the National Council of Churches. The latter item will release the $200 heretofore allocated from our general National Council of Churches contribution to the Joint Department of Christian Vocation and allow this amount to become a part of our general contribution to the National Council.

16. The General Council reminds the Commission on Christian Social Action that in adjusting its budget upward the General Council had in mind the commission's responsibility for the annual contributions of $700 to the Washington Office and $1000 to the Department of Religious Liberty of the National Council of Churches.

17. The General Council approves the proposed letter and mail campaign for funds among the churches of the supporting synods of the Upper Sandusky, Ohio, Home for the Aged, contingent upon favorable action by the Commission on Benevolent Institutions.

18. The General Council, as authorized by the General Synod, adjusts the budget figures upward as follows:

Historical Committee	$ 2,500
Commission on Stewardship	7,500
Commission on Christian Social Action	6,500
Board of Christian Education and Publication	9,000
Board of International Missions	9,000
Commission on Church and Ministry	1,500
Administration Fund	9,000
National Council of Churches	346
Chaplains' Pensions	831
	$46,177

19. The General Council instructs the Treasurer and all boards and agencies writing new annuity contracts to comply with the interest rate schedules adopted by the National Council's Committee on Gift Annuities, October 3 and 4, 1955.

20. The General Council, for its own information and for the information of our Congregational Christian friends, authorizes the employment of Lybrand, Ross Bros. & Montgomery to assist a subcommittee of the Committee on Finance and Budget in preparing a Finance Statement of the Home Agencies and Institutions of our Church. It is suggested that this subcommittee include Dr. Haas, Mr. Wetzel and Treasurer Keck.

21. The General Council expresses its appreciation to the Schaff-Heidelberg Corporation for the remittance of $5,365.05 to be placed with the Board of Investments for the Endowment Fund of The Messenger. The General Council also appreciates the Schaff-Heidelberg Corporation's remittance of $5,000 to the Board of Business Management for credit of the Eden-Heidelberg Bookstores.

22. The General Council authorizes the Board of National Missions to serve as the Church's agent in the control of the Winnebago Indian Mission property with the provision that any lease or transfer of title be subject to the approval of the counselor of the Church.

23. The General Council, implementing a directive of the General Synod, assigns to the Committee on Correlation and Promotion the responsibility for making an intensive study of dispersing monies received through the Apportionment with a view to determing whether some monies now spent through the General Synod and its agencies might not be allotted to synods to spend.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION

Dr. Koch, chairman of the Committee on Publication, presented the following report on behalf of the committee:

The General Council authorizes the Committee on Publication to proceed with the publication of a small volume which will set forth in simple language a statement of the generally accepted doctrinal viewpoint of the Evangelical and Reformed Church; this book to be not a rigidly authoritarian, official statement of doctrine, but a presentation of the general consensus of Christian thought prevailing among us. The General Council directs that the Theological Committee prepare the copy for the proposed volume.

The General Council VOTED to adopt the report of the Committee on Publication.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The report of the Committee on the Report of the President was presented by Dr. Gonser, chairman of the committee. The report was acted upon item by item. Item 8 was deleted, necessitating the renumbering of all subsequent items. Items 5 and 6, and items 8, 9, 14, 16, 18 and 20 (originally numbered 9, 10, 15, 17, 19 and 21) were amended and adopted as amended. The other items were adopted without change.

1. The General Council expresses its gratitude and that of the whole Church to those of its members - Dr. W. Sherman Kerschner, Secretary, Dr. Harry D. Althouse, Dr. John Lentz and Mr. Carl G. F. Bosch - whose terms expire as of January 31, 1957. The Church is deeply indebted to these faithful servants who have offered themselves zealously to the labors which have been set before them. We shall miss their presence and their counsel. At the same time we extend our warm welcome to the newly elected members of the General Council: Dr. Sheldon E. Mackey, Secretary-elect, Dr. John W. Flucke, Dr. John L. Schmidt and Dr. Donald C. Dearborn.

2. The General Council approves the applications for privilege of call of the following: Rev. Thomas Richard Herbert, Rev. Lester W. Muller, Rev. Tibor M. Szilagyi and Rev. Kalman D. Toth.

3. The General Council approves the application for privilege of call of Rev. Harold S. Kinard, with the proviso that he undertake a program of guided study under the direction of the chairman of Pittsburgh Synod's Committee on Church and Ministry, and with the further proviso that his reception into our ministry be dependent upon the fulfillment of this condition and that any charge to which he is called be fully informed as to this requirement.

4. The General Council approves the applications for renewal of privilege of call on the part of the following: Rev. George E. Fetterolf, Rev. J. Wilson Harner.

5. The General Council approves the applications for privilege of call of Rev. Lowell H. Zuck and Rev. Alfred I. Sager, pending the approval of the Committees on Church and Ministry of Missouri Valley and New York Synods respectively, and agrees that the usual year of probationary service shall not be required of Mr. Zuck since he has been a member of the faculty of Eden Theological Seminary since August 1955.

6. The General Council approves the appointment of General Council committees and other committees for the triennium 1957-58-59, as presented.

7. The General Council approves the steps taken by the Board of International Missions and the Commission on World Service to strengthen further the unified approach to our overseas work and witness.

8. (a) The General Council is of the opinion that the By-Laws of the Church do not indicate the academic requirements necessary for a candidate for ordination, and refers this to the Committee on Constitutional Matters.

(b) The General Council suggests that the normal academic preparation should include graduation from an accredited college and from a seminary of the Evangelical and Reformed Church or another accredited seminary.

9. (a) Following the General Synod directive in regard to the orientation of men coming into the ministry of the Evangelical and Reformed Church from other denominations or from seminaries other than our own, the General Council reminds the synods of their responsibility, through their Committees on Church and Ministry, to implement the directive in one of the following ways:

1. He serve first as an assistant or associate pastor.
2. He accept a call to a vacancy near one of our seminaries, where he will take selected courses designed to orientate him in our denominational history and traditions.
3. He follow a course of reading and study prescribed by the Commission on Church and Ministry to meet this need and undergo an examination thereon before the synodical Committee on Church and Ministry at the end of the probationary year required of ministers coming into our fellowship by privilege of call.

(b) It is the judgment of the General Council that the directive regarding orientation for our ministry should not apply to Evangelical and Reformed students studying in accredited seminaries other than our own who have in that connection received instruction in Evangelical and Reformed worship, history and polity.

(c) The General Council directs that the form for application for privilege of call shall include a question the answer to which will indicate the willingness of the applicant to comply with these requirements.

(d) The General Council requests the Commission on Church and Ministry, in consultation with the presidents of the three theological seminaries, to prepare the required reading course for the use of persons seeking entrance into the ministry of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

10. The General Council refers to the Theological Committee the overture of North Wisconsin Synod concerning the proposed series of study conferences for pastors and lay men, and requests the Theological Committee to study the proposal and report to the 1957 fall meeting of the General Council.

11. (a) The General Council approves the request of the Board of International Missions and the Board of National Missions for additional staff personnel. The addition of such staff personnel should be made in consultation with the counterpart boards of the Congregational Christian Churches.

(b) The General Council looks with disfavor upon any tentative arrangement for a personnel secretary for the Board of International Missions.

12. The General Council records its opinion that the office of Administrative Assistant to the President should not be filled at this time, and that items 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 12, 14, 17, 20, 21 and 22 as recorded in the appendix to the President's report might well be assigned to the office of the Secretary of the Church. The General Council authorizes the new Secretary to assume such responsibilities as have been indicated and to reorganize the staff and office as may be necessary to efficiently carry on the program of the Church.

13. The General Council requests the President of the Church, the incoming Secretary of the Church, the counselor of the Church and the president of Northwest Ohio Synod to counsel with Rev. Victor P. Wierwille concerning the manner in which he conducted himself during his recent trip to India and regarding publications he has issued since his return to America.

14. The General Council approves the appointment of the following as delegates to the Oberlin, 1957, Conference on Church Union: Dr. Elmer J. F. Arndt (theological scholar, Eden), Dr. Ruben H. Huenemann (pastor, Mission House), Dr. Gerhard W. Grauer, (pastor, chairman of our Committee on Closer Relations with Other Churches), Daniel J. Snyder, Jr., Esq. (layman), Mrs. V. J. Bartell (laywoman), R. David Koch (youth, Lancaster), and Dr. James E. Wagner (church administrator). In the event that our Church is allotted additional delegates or participants on some other basis, the General Council authorizes the appointment of Dr. David Dunn and/or Dr. Allen O. Miller, both of whom attended the Faith and Order Conference at Lund, Sweden, in 1952.

15. The General Council encourages Nebraska and Iowa Synods as they move in the direction of their merger, and requests that the actions of their joint meeting, November 5-6, 1956, be submitted to the General Council for review at its February 1957 meeting.

16. The General Council believes that the best interests of the Church will be maintained if the present policy concerning ministerial standing in the Evangelical and Reformed Church be continued. Since the community churches are organized in such a way as to constitute a denomination, the General Council believes that, in general, a minister accepting a call to serve a community church should not be permitted to maintain his membership in the ministry of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, but refers to the Administrative Committee the power to make exceptions.

17. The General Council requests the President of the Church to appoint a committee of three from the General Council to study the matter of continuing the Hungarian Chair at Elmhurst College and to report at the next meeting of the General Council.

18. The General Council refers the proposal of the president of North Illinois Synod concerning the form "Request for Dissolution of Pastoral Relationship" to a Committee on Forms and Statistics.

19. The General Council approves the dismissal of St. John's Church, Snyder, Ontario (West New York Synod) to the United Church of Canada.

20. (a) The General Council directs that the practice of assigning members of the General Council to meetings of the boards, commissions and auxiliary organizations be continued.

(b) The General Council suggests that a member of the General Council meet with a board or agency at its two major meetings in one year and thereafter be assigned to a different board or agency.

(c) Criticisms and suggestions by General Council members who attend such meetings should be referred to the chairman of the Committee on Study and Appraisal.

21. The General Council authorizes the President of the Church to increase the membership of the Theological Committee from five to nine.

22. The General Council approves the application of the Good Samaritan Home, Inc., Evansville, Ind., for membership on the Commission on Benevolent Institutions.

23. The General Council refers the matter of the Benevolent Institution Foundation proposed by Rev. Alvin F. Dietz to the Commission on Benevolent Institutions for further study.

24. The General Council requests the President of the Church to inform the president of the Theological Seminary at Lancaster that eligibility for ordination of any candidate is dependent upon the action of the synodical Committee on Church and Ministry as described in Article 31 of the By-Laws (1953 edition).

25. The General Council refers to the Committee on Finance and Budget the item of $9,025 which is our quota of the total cost of the construction of the headquarters building of the World Council of Churches in Geneva. At the same time the General Council notes with regret the position taken by the Commission on World Service in refusing the request of the General Council, since it is the judgment of the General Council that the commission is represented in the World Council just as truly as is every other agency of the Church by the six delegates who represented us at the Evanston Assembly and by the President of the Church as a member of the Central Committee.

26. The General Council requests the President of the Church to communicate to Rev. Robert E. Briggeman of Cincinnati its appreciation of his words of welcome in anticipation of the February 1957 meeting of the General Council.

27. The General Council notes with great satisfaction the forthcoming visits of the President of the Church to our mission fields in the Orient and Ecuador and Honduras, and is convinced that the knowledge he will gain from this trip will bear fruit in the life of the Church. We assure him that we will follow him with our prayers.

STUDENT CHAPEL, COLUMBIA, MO.

The General Council VOTED to approve a plan of Kansas City and Missouri Valley Synods to make an appeal to their constituencies for funds for the Student Chapel at Columbia, Mo.

The General Council recessed from 12:00 m. until 2:00 p.m.

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE

Dr. Herbster and Dr. Mackey, reporting for the special Committee on Insurance, recommended that all members of the General Council and the staff of the Department of United Promotion be included in a common carrier coverage and death benefit policy of the Travelers Insurance Company of Hartford, Conn., and that they purchase additional insurance covering travel by automobile and charge it to their expense accounts. A general discussion followed, in the course of which it was suggested that the special committee investigate the possibility of securing a death benefit policy applicable to all modes of travel. By common consent the General Council authorized the Committee on Insurance, after further explorations in the light of the sentiments expressed here, to take out the kind of coverage which commends itself to them, both in the interest of the individuals concerned and the interest of the Church. It was agreed that in the meantime members of the General Council and the staff of the Department of United Promotion should take out trip insurance and charge it to their expense accounts.

The General Council adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

James E. Wagner, Chairman W. Sherman Kerschner, Secretary

APPENDIX

Report of the President

Addenda:

President's Schedule, February 1, 1956 - October 31, 1956

Responsibilities Placed in the Office of Administrative Assistant to the President

Biographical Notes on Persons Granted Privilege of Call or the Renewal of Privilege of Call by the Administrative Committee, or Who Are Applying for It

Summary of 1955 Contributions to Units of the National Council of Churches from the Evangelical and Reformed Church and Its Agencies

Plan for the Establishment of a Benevolent Institution Foundation of the Evangelical and Reformed Church

Minutes of a Meeting of the Committee on Liturgics, Aug. 27-28, 1956

References from the 1956 General Synod to the General Council

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE CHURCH

October 23, 1956

To the General Council of the
Evangelical and Reformed Church:-

My earlier thought was not to prepare for this meeting the usual formal report, since it was assumed that much of our time would be taken up with matters referred to General Council from the General Synod so recently in session. I do not intend to read this report word-for-word as it has been customary for the President of the Church to do. I will only read an occasional passage, calling attention as we leaf through the report together to the various matters with which it deals and to background information which has been included so that you may be able to consider the more intelligently the issues and proposals which this report brings before you. The decision finally to prepare the usual formal report grows out of the fact that, in addition to all that has been referred to us from General Synod, a variety of other matters require attention which, to present with accuracy and with adequate collateral data and information, clearly required a report set down in black-and-white.

One comes to this meeting inevitably with something of the lingering impressions of the recent General Synod hovering over him. It was my first General Synod as President of the Church. It was not long in session until the President found himself mentally repeating the ritual acknowledgment that "I have done those things which I ought not to have done, and left undone those things which I ought to have done". There were times during General Synod week when one tended to be overborne by a sense of faltering and slow-moving procedure. Yet as one looks back on the week one recalls with gratitude the patience, the stedfastness, the expressions of appreciation, on the part of pastors and lay delegates alike. Many letters have since come to my desk containing pleasant and grateful reactions from those who were with us at Lancaster. And, as one goes over the minutes and the various reports, there is a growing feeling that the 1956 General Synod got a good many things done for the advance of our witness for Christ and for the strengthening of our denominational life. It is in that conviction I believe we can take up the many references General Synod passed on to us and also our general responsibility for the implementation of policies and programs adopted by the General Synod.

Perhaps most immediately significant for us as members of the General Council will be changes in our membership resulting from the elections at Lancaster. We recognize with gratitude the fellowship and service of the Rev. Harry D. Althouse, the Rev. John Lentz, and Carl Bosch whose terms expire January 31, 1957. And we welcome their successors, the Rev. John W. Flucke, the Rev. John L. Schmidt, and Dr. Donald C. Dearborn. The highest compliment we can pay to those who will be leaving us and the best wish we can offer to those who now join us for the first time is that the latter will serve the Church as faithfully and well as their predecessors have served.

General Council Committees and Certain Others

In order to make it possible to include a listing of the General Council Committees in the 1957 Year Book which was shortly to go to press, you were kind enough to approve by a mail vote the committee appointments which I proposed after conferring with Dr. Mackey. In order to make them a matter of permanent record in our minutes and at the same time assure a confirming vote here on our action by mail, I am including a list of the committees thus referred to you several weeks ago.

I have ventured to make one change. After mailing the list to you I discovered that Mr. Allan G. Aigler was in precisely the same position I occupied for some years in the early history of the General Council,- of not being named to one of the committees which will ordinarily meet simultaneously on the committee-meeting day of our semi-annual sessions. After consultation with Dr. John W. Mueller I have added Mr. Aigler's name to the Committee on Finance and Budget where we can take advantage of his banking background and experience. With that one change the committees you approved will stand as follows:

Administrative. Rev. James E. Wagner, chairman; Rev. Sheldon E. Mackey, secretary; Rev. Ben M. Herbster, Rev. John R. C. Haas; and Messrs. Allan G. Aigler, F. A. Keck, John W. Mueller.

Finance and Budget. John W. Mueller, chairman; Joseph C. Wetzel, secretary; Rev. Ben M. Herbster, Rev. Emil N. Krafft; and Messrs. Allan G. Aigler, Herbert W. Beutel, F. A. Keck, Harold F. Webber.

Correlation and Promotion. Rev. John R. C. Haas, chairman; Rev. Sheldon E. Mackey, secretary; Rev. John W. Flucke, Rev. Albert C. Gonser, Rev. Roy W. Limbert; Mr. Samuel C. Bond, Jr., Mrs. Milton C. Lang.

Publication. Rev. Erwin R. Koch, chairman; Rev. John L. Schmidt, Rev. Robert C. Stanger; Mrs. E. Roy Corman, Donald C. Dearborn.

Constitutional Matters. John W. Mueller, chairman; Rev. Sheldon E. Mackey, Rev. Robert C. Stanger, Louis H. Goebel, Charles F. Greevy, Daniel J. Snyder, Jr.

Closer Relations With Other Churches. Rev. Gerhard W. Grauer, chairman; Rev. John C. Gieser, Rev. L. W. Goebel, Rev. John R. C. Haas, Rev. Charles S. Hartman, Rev. Robert C. Stanger, Rev. James E. Wagner; Mrs. David D. Baker, John W. Mueller.

Study and Appraisal. Rev. Ben M. Herbster, chairman; Rev. John L. Schmidt, Rev. Thomas D. Garner, Donald C. Dearborn, Miss Frances Kapitzky.

Toward Unification of Our Overseas Witness

At our meeting in February, 1954, I urged that steps should be taken to encourage and make possible more effective liaison between the Commission on World Service and our Boards of National and International

Missions, more particularly the latter. This recommendation was based upon such considerations as the following: (1) that World Service ministries which began as an approach to emergencies at home and abroad were obviously becoming a part of the long-term program not only of our Church but of all the Churches; (2) that the interest and strategy of Inter-Church Aid was turning from a primary concern with the situation of the Christian communities in Europe to a concern for the situation of the younger Christian communities in Asia and Africa; (3) and that the latter will not only place World Service programs and agencies in areas traditionally served by International Missions agencies but also involves a relationship between the older "sending" Churches and both the missionary staffs and the increasingly self-conscious and competent native Christian communities. Meanwhile, definite progress has been made looking toward eventual unification of the International Missionary Council with the World Council of Churches.

As a result of that recommendation and General Council's favorable action, representatives of the Commission and the Mission Boards later that year arrived at a series of agreements as to respective responsibilities and procedures calculated to forestall overlapping and duplication and the possibility of misunderstandings between these various agencies.

In the two years since then there have been times when problems continued to arise in carrying forward our overseas witness. Early this summer the Board of International Missions requested a joint meeting of the executive committees of the Board and the Commission with members of General Council also present for the purpose of reviewing the joint policy adopted in 1954 and further clarifying "the responsibility for the overseas program of the Evangelical and Reformed Church". The Administrative Committee on May 28 voted its approval of this joint meeting. The meeting was held at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, on August 30. Helpful discussion of pertinent problems characterized the day, and it was agreed that to strengthen further the unified approach to our overseas work and witness the following steps should be taken:

1. The Executive Secretary of the Board of International Missions should sit as an advisory member at meetings of the Commission on World Service, and the Executive Secretary of the Commission as an advisory member at meetings of the Board.

2. There should be frequent and full consultation between the Executive Secretaries of the Board and Commission respectively.

3. A permanent liaison committee should be set up consisting of three representatives each from the Board and Commission, and that this liaison committee should meet regularly and with sufficient frequency so as to make possible the planning of most effective co-operative work and witness overseas.

I believe that these decisions constitute a constructive approach to the problems involved. All that is reported here should be recognized as being our approach to a new situation and its inevitable problems which is not ours alone but which confronts all the Churches; and it is to be hoped that in acting as we have we may be developing a pattern of mutuality and co-operation which will be helpful to the whole Christian Church throughout all the world as it reorganizes its strategies in the light of the contemporary situation and the widening implications of the ecumenical movement.

Support of National Council of Churches

The General Council last February requested the President to prepare a statement of all contributions made by our Church and its agencies to the National Council of Churches and to report on the same at the fall meeting. This statement has been prepared on the basis of data secured from the National Council office, and will be found as an appendix to this report. A note is attached to the tabulation making the following observations: (1) in most instances, contributions of a denominational agency to one or more NCC units are present-day counterparts to contributions that agency used to make to a previously existing independent agency which is now a part of the National Council; (2) more than two-thirds of total Evangelical and Reformed monies sent to the NCC are remittances to Church World Service from our Commission on World Service toward overseas projects in which our Commission works through CWS; (3) a tabulation presented to General Council several years ago showed that our total contributions, compared with those of other member-denominations, were not at all out of proportion, and it is my firm impression that this continues to be true.

Meanwhile, correspondence and conference with NCC officials have brought attention to several adjustments and minor increases which ought to be made in our support of the National Council. They are as follows:

1. Toward underwriting expenses of the exchange visit with Baptist, Lutheran and Orthodox leaders of the churches in Russia. Cost of the visit of our delegation to Russia exceeded the budget originally provided by several thousand dollars. Cost of entertaining the Russian delegation during their stay in America totalled $16,906.12. Gifts or pledges toward underwriting these expenses had already been made by ten denominations as early as August 14, four of these denominations making contributions in excess of $2,000 each. In correspondence with NCC officers I volunteered to recommend that the Evangelical and Reformed Church contribute $1,000 for this purpose. I hope that General Council will approve and refer the matter to the Committee on Finance and Budget for implementation.

2. The Central Department of Ecumenical Relations requests us to consider the possibility of an annual contribution of between $500 and $1,000 toward its general administrative expense. This Department is responsible for two major operations, the Ecumenical Scholarship Exchange and the Interchange of Preachers. Through our Commission on World Service, in the annual amount of $2,700, we are among the most generous supporters of the Ecumenical Scholarship Exchange. Several of our men at one time or other have been on the Interchange of Preachers list, for which each man is responsible for his own travel and other expense. A contribution annually of $500 for the general administrative expense of this department might well be assigned to our Commission on Church and Ministry and the budget and guaranteed advance increased accordingly.

3. The Joint Department of Christian Vocation, with responsibilities in the general area of recruitment and training for full-time service in the Church, is hopeful that we can increase our support of that department to a total of $750. At present the department is receiving $500 from us,- $200 allocated from our general contribution of $12,500 annually to the NCC, $300 in 1955 from the Commission on Church and Ministry. The $200 allocation from our general gift has a history dating back to 1947. It is the only allocation so made from our general gift. I should like to recommend that we increase our giving to this department to a total of $750, but that we ask the Commission to be the transmitting agency for it all and have this in mind in determining the Commission's budget and guaranteed advance.

4. The immediately preceding recommendation hinges in part on the fact that in the NCC's effort now being made to secure a larger proportion of its basic support from the member-denominations we have been so close to our appropriate total contributions that an increase of only $546 is asked. I should say that a number of denominations needing to make very substantial increases in their basic contributions have responded favorably, notably the Methodist Church which has increased its contribution far beyond the new amount it was asked to assume. If, now, we transfer that $200 item for the Department of Christian Vocation to become part of the increased total contribution of our Commission on Church and Ministry, and then increase our annual general contribution to $12,846, we shall have met what is requested of us; and I hope favorable consideration will be given to this adjustment also.

Within the past year we took action providing that hereafter our annual contributions of $700 to the Washington Office of the NCC and $1,000 to the Department of Religious Liberty should be the responsibility of our Commission on Christian Social Action. The foregoing recommendations assigning to our Commission on Church and Ministry the responsibility for our contributions to the departments of Ecumenical Relations and of Christian Vocation is a move in the same direction. The basic principle involved is to have support for various units of the NCC coming from counterpart and related denominational agencies, while the general denominational contribution goes to general administration and for allocation to those NCC units which have no denominational counterparts. The advantage in all this is that denominational agencies are thus placed in a stronger position to control policy and program of those NCC units carrying responsibilities in the area in which, respectively, each denominational agency is most fully informed and aware.

Policy on the Union Church

General Synod adopted a resolution directing "the General Council in co-operation with the Union Church Committee of the Committee on Town and Country Church and the presidents of the nine (9) eastern synods, in which nearly all of the two hundred thirty-five (235) union churches are located, to formulate a definite policy and plan of action for these congregations based upon the statement of policy previously produced by the Joint Commission on the Union Church". I have conferred with Dr. Ralph S. Weiler on this matter and we are suggesting that a conference should be held the attendants at which should include our Committee on the Union Church, the presidents of the nine Pennsylvania Synods, and perhaps three representatives of the General Council.

Perhaps it would be well to state that the Joint Commission on the Union Church was organized at Reading, Pennsylvania, November 23, 1948, and includes representatives of the United Lutheran Church and the Evangelical and Reformed Church. On February 5, 1951, this Commission adopted a 10-point statement of policy which it recommended to the union congregations for the guidance of their common life and mutual interests. This 10-point statement of policy includes the following:

> "1. That each congregation be incorporated separately, and have its own corporate administrative body--Church Council or Consistory; and the congregations hold the church property as tenants in common.
>
> "2. That the administrative bodies of the congregations meet jointly at stated times to make necessary provisions for the use,

maintenance, and improvement of the property jointly held; and that the expense incurred in the use, maintenance, and improvement of the common property be shared equally by the congregations unless another plan is agreeable.

"3. That each congregation have its own treasury and treasurer.

"4. That each congregation make proper and necessary provision for the gathering and disbursement of its own funds in such manner as may be authorized and approved by its denomination; and that a 'weekly envelope' and the 'Every-Member Visitation' or 'Kingdom Roll Call' be considered as the most satisfactory means of meeting both the local and benevolent budgets; and wherever possible, the time schedules for appeals for funds should be co-ordinated.

"5. That, in Union Sunday Schools, the literature of one of the denominations be used on a three-year cycle--e.g., the Evangelical and Reformed literature for one period, and the Lutheran literature for the next period, and thus alternating thereafter.

"6. Whenever practicable each congregation shall recognize and develop the authorized auxiliary organizations of its own denomination for men, women, and young people, in order that the denominational program may be adequately promoted. Wherever this is not found practicable it shall be understood that any and all auxiliary union organizations shall correlate their activities with the denominational programs.

"7. Whenever it becomes evident that the disparity in financial and numerical strength between the two congregations works to the detriment of the whole program of the Church, the smaller group is urged to disband or merge with a neighboring congregation of the same denomination. When a congregation disbands its assets shall go to the parent Synod and its official body shall make provision for the spiritual welfare of its members. A congregation merging with another shall bring its assets to the congregation with which it unites.

"8. Whenever the circumstances make it feasible, the union congregations in a parish or a given community are urged to exchange buildings so that one church building houses a Lutheran congregation and the other a Reformed congregation.

"9. Where conditions warrant--such as adequacy of fields and sufficient resources--the union arrangement might well be dissolved. Before proceeding with a building program following the dissolution of the union arrangement, consideration should be given to the possibility of exchanging buildings. In planning for new edifices subsequent to a separation every effort should be made to serve the community needs more effectively by the proper location of the new church building. All property values and equities shall be adjusted in a manner agreeable to both groups and in the spirit of Christian charity. All negotiations shall be carried on with the advice, knowledge, and consent of the Synodical authorities.

"10. All members of a Union Church (should) be encouraged to attend worship once a Sunday. Whenever the two congregations in a union situation can amicably arrange, each congregation is urged to conduct a service of worship each Lord's Day.

"The Commission commends those congregations in union churches in which the denominational program is effectively advanced and where community needs are adequately served and the spirit of co-operation manifested. It urges, too, that congregations avoid a feeling of self-complacency, and that they intensify their efforts to further the Kingdom."

In an article in The Messenger, May 18, 1954, the Rev. Paul P. Haas pointed out that "the last two decades have witnessed a trend in the direction of a minimum of practical co-operation, so that today many of these churches co-operate in only one thing--the use of a common building.....A general feeling of tension exists in the congregations....Many people find it difficult to understand why this feeling of tension should arise at a time when almost all the Protestant denominations of the country are sincerely interested in an ecumenical movement".

I have had two experiences recently which underscore the importance of having the kind of conference on the union church which is proposed. I spoke at the dedication of a beautiful new union church erected at a cost of more than $300,000:-wonderful, but without doubt it means that the union church arrangement will be saddled onto that community for another half-century at least. After that dedication service the young pastor of a nearby union charge of two churches spoke to me about the problem he is confronting. The two Lutheran congregations on the charge have now decided each to call a fulltime pastor. Our two congregations are not prepared to take such a step. Consider the problem of scheduling services from now on when each Lutheran congregation will have a pastor available every Sunday, and the handicap our pastor will labor under dividing his day-to-day pastoral attentions to a parish where he and his congregations are in a competitive position with reference to the two Lutheran congregations with their increased pastoral service. These instances will indicate only a fraction of the varied and complex factors affecting our approximately 235 Evangelical and Reformed congregations involved in union church situations.

Requirements for Ordination

The President of Iowa Synod offers what appears to be an appropriate and helpful suggestion toward upholding our traditional standards of academic preparation for the ministry. He notes that By-Law 79b (1956 Blue Book numbering) assigns to the synodical Committee on Church and Ministry the duty "to pass upon the physical, mental and spiritual fitness of those desiring to become candidates for ordination or for Privilege of Call". He points out further that, while the By-Laws are fairly specific (44) as to "adequate training" for a commissioned worker: "Normally this shall consist of at least one year of formal training beyond the college degree", nothing so specific is stated as to academic requirements preliminary to ordination. He recognizes that among us "it is generally accepted that four years of college and three years of Seminary are normal", but he believes that the academic traditions of the Church would be further safeguarded and the responsibility of the synodical

Committees on Church and Ministry clarified and strengthened if this standard were specified. He suggests that By-Law 25b might well be amended by adding some such sentence as this: "The normal academic preparation should include four years of college and three years of theological training in a recognized seminary" and that perhaps the three-year seminary requirement should be made mandatory.

This Synod President speaks out of the actualities of a difficult and delicate situation which confronted him shortly after he took office. If his suggestions commend themselves to General Council the appropriate procedure would be to refer the item to the Committee on Constitutional Matters and, for the interim until next meeting of General Synod, adopt a resolution which would urge adherence to this standard on the part of the Synods.

Orientation for Our Ministry

The General Synod took action directing "that any minister coming into the Evangelical and Reformed Church from another denomination or any seminary other than our own be required to (1) serve first as an assistant or associate pastor; or (2) accept a call to a vacancy near one of our seminaries where he will take selected courses designed to orientate him in denominational history and traditions; or (3) follow a course of reading and study prescribed by the Commission on Church and Ministry to meet this need and undergo an examination thereon before the synodical committee at the end of the probationary year required of ministers coming into our fellowship by Privilege of Call".

In order to clarify and strengthen the implementation of this directive there are several matters on which General Council should express itself. The substance of the directive would seem clearly to have been intended to apply to students taking their seminary work in seminaries other than our own, but the wording in the opening clause is somewhat ambiguous. Some account should be taken of the case of those students studying at a seminary where, as at the Yale Divinity School, a course on Evangelical and Reformed history, program, worship, polity, etc., is offered at regular intervals and presented by an Evangelical and Reformed person of competence in the field. By-Law 29 requires that an applicant for ordination who has not been under the care of Synod while he was pursuing his studies "must be licensed for at least one year before he can be ordained" and, further, we can grant such an applicant Temporary License for this probationary year so as to qualify him to perform the full round of pastoral services pending his ordination after a year. But the student who has been studying at another seminary than our own, but doing so "under the care of a Synod", is eligible for ordination upon graduation and after favorable action by the Synod. Such a student's ordination would not need to be deferred for a year but he could be required to enter upon a solemn obligation to comply during the first year of his ordained ministry with one of the alternative provisions set forth in General Synod's action, his compliance being carried out in consultation with the Committee on Church and Ministry of the Synod in which he begins his ordained ministry.

We will have problems providing materials for a course of reading and study. I am informed that there are still about 800 copies of "Through Four Centuries" by Horstmann and Wernecke, but only about 40 copies remaining of Dr. Carl E. Schneider's remarkable book "The German Church on the American Frontier". There is no comparable recent volume on the background of the former

Reformed Church in the United States. We have available at present no work interpreting the theory underlying our Book of Worship, particularly its Orders of Worship for the Lord's Day and the celebration of the Holy Communion. Another lack, which will be vital if our orientation resources are to be adequate but which is also brought to mind by rather frequent inquiries coming to my desk, especially from sources outside our denomination, is that we have no volume providing a reasonably adequate presentation of the doctrinal viewpoint generally prevailing among us and its historical antecedents in the life of our two former constituencies from Reformation times on:- a lack which may give added point to a recommendation I made to General Council in September, 1954, proposing publication of a "doctrinal volume....a simply written but adequate statement of the more or less generally accepted doctrinal viewpoint of the Evangelical and Reformed Church,- a statement which ought to treat simply and briefly the various great areas of Christian doctrine such as the idea of God, Christ, man, sin, salvation, the Church, the Kingdom of God, etc.,.....not a rigidly authoritarian official statement of doctrine, but a presentation of the general consensus of Christian thought prevailing among us."

Production of such a volume at this time might serve also as a contribution to the ecumenical movement, more specifically to the intellectual intercourse vital to the deepening of the union we are about to enter into. I believe we have competent persons, either on our Theological Committee and Committee on Liturgics or who would respond to the call of these committees, who might produce for us a combined volume on history, doctrine, worship and polity if General Council would speak the encouraging word and give some assurance of the necessary preliminary financial backing.

It would seem that we should ask the Commission on Church and Ministry to list a course of "required reading" for use in orientation where needed, submitting the list to General Council at the earliest possible date. Presidents of the three theological seminaries should be consulted in compiling this list, they and the Commission giving us the benefit of their judgment as to what volumes are needed to make such a list adequate.

Overture for Theological Study Conference

North Wisconsin Synod at its spring meeting adopted an overture addressed to the General Council which, whatever action is taken, is so thoughtfully worded as to merit making it available in full to General Council members. It reads as follows:

> "North Wisconsin Synod gratefully acknowledges the steps taken by General Council with reference to the union with the Congregational-Christian Churches. Having been assured that there will be ample opportunity to discuss and vote on developing issues in the union, North Wisconsin Synod expresses to General Council the hope that the church will always engage in the process of union in humility of spirit, repenting where repentance is called for, ready to serve where service is needed, determined to bear witness to the reconciling love of God as new tensions emerge in present-day society. As the Church seeks to give clearer expression to the unity which is already real in Jesus Christ and grow in understanding of this unity, she must remind herself that the Lord Jesus Christ came to heal the broken-hearted and to set the captive free. Therefore, fervent and fuller proclamation of the healing power of the gospel among the people and a deeper experience of the wholeness which

Jesus Christ has obtained for men (are imperative needs).

"In the coming union many questions remain unanswered. The answers only can gorw out of earnest inquiry and genuine obedience to the Word of God. All decisions and actions require diligent examination under the truth of God. In recent days H. Richard Niebuhr, in the new volume The Purpose of the Church and Its Ministry (p. VIII), properly reminds the Church that 'the unexamined life is not worth living.' Right steps in this direction were taken with the appointment of the Joint Committee for the Study of Basic Christian Doctrine, which has already begun its work. The task of self-examination in the light of the Word of God must engage the attention of the whole Church, however. It must become the concern of the rank-and-file membership of the Church, not merely of the theologians. Whenever the whole Church becomes seriously concerned about its life under the Word of God there is an increased possibility of a genuine expression of unity.

"To implement the necessary process of self-examination North Wisconsin Synod overtures General Council to arrange for a series of study conferences for pastors and selected laymen and laywomen in each of the synods during the coming triennium, for the consideration of the following: (1) the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as the only source of wholeness and life for the Church; (2) the authority of the Bible for Faith, the Word of God and the work of the Spirit in faith; (3) the ordering of the life of the Church according to the Word of God.

"North Wisconsin Synod further overtures General Council to encourage subsequently study conferences in every local congregation for the purpose of considering the same issues. Resource leaders for the conferences in congregations may be drawn from pastors and lay leaders of the synods."

A number of ways of dealing with this overture suggest themselves. It could be referred to the Theological Committee for consideration and a report back to General Council of suggestions for its implementation if the committee was convinced of its merit. It could be commended to the several Synods, leaving it to the Synods whether to act upon it or not. One other possibility suggests itself. Suppose we were to refer it to the Department of United Promotion with some such suggestion as the following: You have had opportunity in the fall of 1956 to get the triennial Advance Program in its more tangible aspects before our Synods; now, forget the usual type of program for the Fall Meetings and plan one instead which will implement this overture and thus undergird the carrying forward of the program by helping our people to become aware of the spiritual and doctrinal foundations on which the life of the Church is builded. Such a Fall Meeting program might just have values far beyond the implementation of the overture.

Proposals for Staff Expansion

Both Mission Boards request General Council approval of proposals for additional staff persons. All the proposed additions seem integral to the Advance Program and as such should have our approval.

The Board of International Missions meeting in May voted "that we approve the appointment of a full time staff member with responsibilities for

recruitment and candidate enlistment, and that a committee be appointed to interview possible candidates and recommend a budget. The staff meanwhile shall have authority to use Dr. Emil Menzel tentatively in this position at its discretion." The Executive Secretary reports that General Synod's Committee on the Report of the Board of International Missions suggested that this request for approval of General Council be made, and it is accordingly submitted. It is my understanding that this staff person would have another very important area of responsibility, namely, that of counselor to missionaries on the field. Missionaries are human beings, and they have personal and family problems, problems also of their relations to one another as fellow-workers on the same station; and there has been an increasing feeling of need for someone to whom this counselling responsibility could be assigned.

On the basis of action by its Executive Committee but pending further consideration and final action by the Board of National Missions, its Executive Secretary submits "tentative request" for our approval of "plans to add to the staff (1) an assistant or associate secretary for City Church and Urban Strategy, and (2) an assistant or associate secretary for Church Building". Purposes envisaged by these two staff additions are stated by the Executive Secretary as follows:

> "The first is inspired by the evident need for enlarging the present program of self-study to be carried out by churches in various metropolitan centers. It was the evident intention of the General Synod of 1953 to give assistance to urban churches facing the problems connected with changing neighborhood situations. It seems unwise to let some churches die while others are being started. The success of the Louisville, Kentucky, study has convinced the Board that this work ought to be carried on at a greatly accelerated pace. Because the very essence of it is thoroughness and completeness, and because the results are so rewarding in terms of both conservation and expansion, it seems wise to add to our staff at this point. The program Dr. Shope has initiated seems unique among Protestant denominations, and bears great promise.
>
> "Second: the additional work created by the lifting of new goals for starting new churches makes it imperative that while we are building up our long-range program we do not neglect the immediate problems facing us. Our field staff is of the opinion that we can give help most effectively to synod committees and to our program of expansion by putting not one but two men in the Church Building Department.... We are at present seeking a successor to Mr. Edwin G. Eilers, who resigned, and when we have found that successor, we should like to be in position to work towards securing another Church Building Secretary so that the travel burden could be somewhat lightened."

General Council, if it approves these proposals, may wish to suggest the possible desirability of consultation with counterpart Congregational Christian Boards so as to preclude any unnecessary duplication of personnel when the union is consummated and to assure so far as possible such staff additions and such personnel choices as may best serve the coming United Church.

Administrative Assistant to the President

Attached as an appendix to this report is an analysis of responsibilities which have been carried by Dr. Sheldon E. Mackey since he began his work as Administrative Assistant in February, 1954. I shall venture only one comment, and that is that without fail, faithfully, fully and efficiently, Dr. Mackey has handled these responsibilities, and has been, in addition, of continuous assistance with his advice and reminders to the President.

With his election to the Secretaryship of the Church rises the question as to filling the position of Administrative Assistant or otherwise providing for the care of the responsibilities which Dr. Mackey has handled so well. A number of factors suggest that, for the present and perhaps for the triennium, the position should remain vacant. One consideration is that, from the President's viewpoint, it would be difficult to find another Dr. Mackey, although this consideration is an entirely incidental one; and, if an Administrative Assistant clearly becomes necessary, one has faith that God will direct us to the right person. More important is the problem related to the coming union. Having in mind the superior kind of man we need for this position if it is to be filled, it would not be fair to pull such a man out of the pastorate now with the uncertainty as to whether an appropriate place could be found for him when the processes of union are brought to their fullest fruition with the definitive organization of staff in the United Church.

Meanwhile, it has been suggested that many of the responsibilities of correlation and promotion which the By-Laws now assign to the Administrative Assistant and which have been so effectively carried by Dr. Mackey should appropriately be responsibilities of the Secretary of the Church since he is also designated as secretary of the Committee on Correlation and Promotion. If the latter designation presupposes that he should be not only a keeper of minutes for the committee but to considerable extent responsible also for the execution and implementation of committee actions and policies once approved by the General Council, then the Secretary of the Church as secretary of the committee could carry many of the responsibilities which Dr. Mackey has carried. If this reasoning is sound, Dr. Mackey will also bring with him to the Secretaryship a background of experience which would enable him to function as this suggestion presupposes of the Secretary. We have talked this over informally and recognize, of course, that it will require considerable reorganization of staff and responsibility in the Secretary's office, perhaps additional secretarial assistance, but we believe it can be done. In this connection it is our thought that Items 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 12, 14, 17, 20, 21, and 22 may well go with Dr. Mackey to the Secretary's office, and that on certain other items (e.g., 4 and 6) he could at the President's request be of great assistance.

If this plan commends itself to General Council two actions should probably be taken: (1) voting to suspend the operation of those By-Laws which deal with the office of Administrative Assistant; and (2) authorizing the new Secretary to assume such responsibilities as have been indicated and to reorganize staff and responsibility in the Secretary's office accordingly.

The Rev. Victor P. Wierwille

I believe that General Council must take some notice of the doings of the Rev. Victor P. Wierwille, pastor of St. Peter's Church, Van Wert, Ohio. Our concern should not be with his theological position or his extra-congregational activities in this country but with the way in which he has

intruded himself into the missionary situation in India within the past year. As early as May 12, 1955, the Synodical Council of Northwest Ohio Synod was concerned about the visit he was planning to make to India but "was assured by him that this trip to India would be taken as an individual, and not as a pastor of the Evangelical and Reformed Church". He spent the past fall and winter on this visit, at least three months of it in India. He there associated himself with independent native Christian groups identified with what is called the "All-India Federation of National Churches" which is apparently out of sympathy with the National Christian Council of India with which our missionaries are in co-operation and through which the World Council and World Service operates. We soon had letters of disquietude and protest from our missionaries. Then came a query from Dr. Leslie E. Cooke, Director of the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees, World Council of Churches. In consequence, Dr. Ehlman at my request cabled, on or about January 4 of this year, to our mission in India as follows: "PLEASE SHARE THE FOLLOWING WITH MANIKAM AND UNITED CHURCH OFFICIALS AT YOUR DISCRETION STOP WHILE NO DISCIPLINARY ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN AGAINST REV. VICTOR P. WIERWILLE THE BOARD OF INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH COMPLETELY DISAVOW ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR OR SUPPORT OF HIS PRESENT VISIT TO INDIA OR STATEMENTS OR PROMISES HE MAY MAKE."

One of the most significant repercussions on this visit was a strongly-worded, but I believe entirely justified, letter addressed to Mr. Wierwille by Dr. Emil Menzel whom I had looked upon as a mild man not likely to be moved to write such a letter.

Since returning to this country Mr. Wierwille has published a booklet entitled "The Dilemma of Foreign Missions in India" and now there has been forwarded to my desk through our Dr. Helfferich a clipping from the September 22 issue of an Indian publication in English, BLITZ Newsmagazine, in which is published what appears to be only the first section of an article to be published serially and which is headed: "THE CROSS SERVED THE SWORD OF IMPERIALISM, By Dr. Victor Paul Wierwille, A.B., B.D., Th.M., Hh.D. (?Th.D.), Pastor of the Evangelical and Reformed Church of U.S.A.". Both the pamphlet and this first article charge international missions with having been historically the handmaiden of western "imperialism". This will explain the report from India that "a young Communist convert" (which I take to mean a young convert from Communism) "pointed out to me that many of the ideas presented in this article are straight out of the Communist party literature and in fact he says that he recognizes some of them because he himself had helped to edit a book which goes under the name of something like 'American Shadow Over India'." Our informant, from the National Christian Council of India, adds: "If you read the article carefully you will note that he will not only antagonize India toward the Protestant Church but the Catholics vs. the Protestants, the Anglicans vs. the Protestants and furthermore the Indian Protestants vs. the 'foreign missions'."

It is certainly to be regretted that this pastor has been the means of making the work of our own missionaries more difficult, encouraging a native organization which is in opposition to the National Christian Council of India, and now providing precisely the kind of material which will strangthen the hand of those seeking to limit the program of missions in India and bar the way to entrance of certain kinds of missionary personnel.

Miscellaneous Matters

Delegates to Oberlin, 1957, Conference on Church Union. Pursuant to to General Council's authorization and after consultation with Dr. Gerhard W. Grauer, the following have been named as our delegates to the North American Conference on "The Nature of the Unity We Seek" which is to be held at Oberlin, Ohio, September 3-10, 1957:- the Rev. Elmer J. F. Arndt (theological scholar, Eden), the Rev. Ruben H. Huenemann (pastor, Mission House), the Rev. Gerhard W. Grauer (pastor, chairman of our Committee on Closer Relations With Other Churches), Daniel J. Snyder, Esq. (layman), Mrs. V. J. Bartell (Laywoman), R. David Koch (youth, Lancaster), and myself (church administrator). Parentheses following each name will indicate basis of selection according to categories of delegates determined by those planning the conference and in several instances the theological seminary constituency represented. It is my hope that as time for the conference draws nearer we may be allotted additional delegates or participants on some other basis. In this case it would seem appropriate and desirable to name Dr. David Dunn and/or Dr. Allen O. Miller, both of whom attended the Lund, Sweden, Faith and Order Conference.

Merger of Iowa and Nebraska Synods. General Synod has approved the merger of the Iowa and Nebraska Synods. The Synodical Councils of the two Synods are planning to meet in Des Moines on November 5-6 to work out details which will be submitted to the spring meetings of the two Synods for approval. It is proposed to make the merger effective July 1, 1957, so as not to confuse the matter of our delegation to the First General Synod of the United Church of Christ. I do not know of any actinn which General Council should now take with respect to the merger of the two Synods except that we should encourage them to proceed and that, in keeping with the spirit if not the letter of the Constitution (38b7), the actions of the joint meeting November 5-6 should be submitted to General Council for review at the February meeting.

Questions on Ministerial Standing. One of our pastors raises two questions pertaining to his ministerial standing if he were to accept a call to a pastorate outside our denomination. In one instance the call is from a Congregational Christian Church. Until now we have insisted that one of our pastors accepting a call to this fellowship must transfer his standing from the Evangelical and Reformed ministry to the Congregational Christian. This pastor asks whether the actions taken at Omaha and Lancaster and the fact that the stage seems to be fully set for our union will change our policy, allowing him to retain his ministerial standing with us and continue his membership in our Pension Fund. The Lancaster resolution providing for a continuation of "the present structure" of each denomination would seem to imply the continuance of our policy on ministerial standing. On the other hand, one of the questions we will have to face in joint ER-CC meetings soon will be that of the nature and status of candidates for the ministry ordained after the Uniting General Synod:- will they, as in the first years of our own 1934 union, be ordained to "the ministry of the United Church of Christ" whichever constituency's judicatory does the ordaining? The pastor's second question was whether, if he accepted a call to a Community Church, he could still retain ministerial standing and pension membership with us,- to which my tentative reply was that the Community Churches are related or organized under some such name as the National Council of Community Churches and to all intents and purposes constitute another denomination and that, therefore, the same policy would apply and he would have to transfer his ministerial standing and end his membership in our pension fund. A policy statement by General Council on the substance of both these questions would be helpful.

Hungarian Chair at Elmhurst. The Board of National Missions has for some years been subsidizing in part the Hungarian professorship at Elmhurst College. The Board would like to be relieved of this obligation, although the usual provision has been made for the 1956-57 academic year. The Administrative Committee on May 28 voted "that a committee be appointed to study this matter and report its judgment as to whether or not a subsidy for the Hungarian instructorship should be continued." This committee would certainly wish to consult with the college administration and officers of the Magyar Synod in exploring all the factors involved.

Committee on Liturgics. Attached as an appendix to this report is a copy of the minutes of the August 27-28 meeting of the Committee on Liturgics. I do not think anything requires action on our part at this time, but I felt that these minutes reflected so vividly the varied enterprises the Committee is engaged upon that General Council would find them illuminating.

Request for Dissolution of Pastoral Relationship. The President of North Illinois Synod objects to the wording of the form we adopted for "Request for Dissolution of Pastoral Relationship". This form, it will be recalled, was adapted from a form suggested by the Central Pennsylvania Synod. Our wording presupposes that the pastor has presented his resignation "to the Consistory (Joint Consistory)" and that the Consistory (Joint Consistory) has accepted the resignation and joins with the pastor in requesting the dissolution. The President of North Illinois Synod, in declaring that this form "is unusable in most of our 'E' Churches in North Illinois Synod" goes on to assert: "In our 'E' Churches the Congregation elects the Pastor and only the Congregation has a right to accept the resignation. To most of our churches the term 'consistory' is still foreign." He suggests that the wording be changed to read: "Whereas the resignation has been properly accepted, the Pastor and the Church Council or Consistory herewith join in requesting that the Pastoral relations be dissolved".

Dismissal of St. John's Church, Snyder, Ontario. Shortly after our last regular meeting I received a letter from the secretary of the congregation of St. John's Church, Snyder, Ontario, stating that the congregation wished to transfer to the United Church of Canada. The President of West New York Synod had spoken to me previously about it. Action was precipitated by the retirement of the Rev. John S. Huebschmann who had been serving this small congregation. It would have been difficult to replace him. The congregation felt, moreover, that "our opportunities for co-operative work with churches in our own neighborhood and province will no doubt be greater than they would be by adhering to a church denomination in another country". Favorable action seemed to be consistent with our Constitution (34 and 38b7), and, pursuant to correspondence between myself and the President of West New York Synod, this Synod on May 24, 1956, took action dismissing St. John's Church to the United Church of Canada. I believe this action was wise and fully justified, but I think it might be well to have General Council approval recorded. The matter did, however, serve to remind us that we have no clear provision for such an exigency in our Constitution and By-Laws, nor any appropriate form on which such a dismissal could be recorded and certified. Such a procedure is not likely to confront us soon again if at all, so perhaps no further provision should be made for it.

General Council Observers at Board Meetings. Many favorable comments from members and executives of Boards, Commissions and Auxiliary Organizations have been received on the practice through the past triennium of assigning

members of General Council to sit in as observers at meetings of these boards. These observers have been in position to interpret the mind of General Council to the boards and, vice versa, the mind of these boards to General Council. We should continue the practice, and if General Council concurs a resolution to that effect would be helpful, as would an expression also on two related questions:- (1) should each observer who served in the past be appointed to sit with a different board now; (2) and should these appointments be made for one year instead of the triennium and a corresponding shift in appointments be made for each year?

Theological Committee. The Theological Committee has served us well during the past triennium. It has had five members including one pastor, one college faculty member who is a master in the field of philosophy and comparative religion, and a representative of each of our theological seminaries either administrator or teacher. This committee could well be enlarged. It does not meet often, most likely once a year, so that an increase in number would not create a problem in arranging date of meeting and securing full attendance. A larger committee would be by so much the more representative. Increasing its membership to nine would make possible appointment of another pastor competent and interested in the field, and three more theological scholars including perhaps one more from each of our seminaries or one or more theologians who are in our ministry but on the faculties of other seminaries. If General Council concurs, the President should be given power to appoint subject to further correspondence with members of the present committee and perhaps with possible appointees.

Financial Appeal of Upper Sandusky Home for Aged. The Board of Trustees of the Home for the Aged at Upper Sandusky, Ohio, requests approval of "a letter and mail campaign for funds among the churches of the supporting Synods of the Home. These funds will be used in the $60,000 remodelling program authorized by the Board". Superintendent Diller was reminded that approval of the Commission on Benevolent Institutions is pre-requisite to General Council action. The Commission is not meeting until October 31, and it was suggested that, in order not to delay unnecessarily the Home's launching of its appeal, we might vote our approval contingent upon favorable action on that date by the Commission.

Membership on Commission on Benevolent Institutions. The Good Samaritan Home, Inc., Evansville, Indiana, has applied for membership on the Commission on Benevolent Institutions. This Home is planned "to offer Christian care for indigent and/or chronically ill older people, preferably over 65 years of age". Our First Vice-President Elect is one of the incorporators and a member of the Board. The Counselor of the Church has examined the Home's constitution, articles of incorporation, etc., and has expressed the "opinion that the institution fully complies with all the requirements of our denomination".

Committee on Mentally Ill and Mentally Retarded. General Synod took action instructing the General Council "to appoint a committee to study the responsibility of the church in the care of the mentally ill and mentally retarded". It seemed clear that both the Commission on Benevolent Institutions and the Commission on Church and Ministry (especially its sub-committee on Religion and Health) had a concern in this field. In correspondence with the executives of these two commissions I have suggested the possibility of three representatives of each on this study committee (that number would allow us to

make use of the whole sub-committee on Religion and Health), plus perhaps two or at most three members of the General Council. General Council should decide how large this really important study committee should be, and then perhaps authorize the President to appoint its personnel after further consultation with the two commissions.

Proposal of a Benevolent Institution Foundation. One of our more competent but now retired pastors, the Rev. Alvin F. Dietz, has worked out a rather detailed proposal for the establishment of a Benevolent Institution Foundation which would encourage gifts, bequests, annuities, etc., for the accumulation of principle funds, from which principle or interest thereon grants would be made to benevolent institutions of the Church as resources and needs would permit. I referred this matter to the Commission on Benevolent Institutions for consideration. The Commission "after much deliberation" at the April 13 meeting of the Executive Committee voted to recommend that General Council "appoint a committee to explore this idea further".

Use of Church Seal. The Manager of the Philadelphia Eden-Heidelberg Bookstore transmits an inquiry from one of our churches as to whether it might reproduce the church seal on "church worker calling cards, and other materials such as programs, etc." The inquiry evidently was prompted in part by the fact that a "sister" Lutheran congregation in a union church was making similar use of the "Lutheran Rose Seal". The inquiry also suggested that "in some cases the joint seals would be used for community enterprises". I personally do not see any potential harm in such use of the seal by our congregations, but I would like some official action on the matter since requests of the same sort come every now and then to my desk.

Eligibility for Ordination. The President of Lancaster Theological Seminary raises a question in behalf of one of the seniors there as to whether when this young man graduates he would be considered eligible for ordination on the basis of his acceptance of appointment as superintendent and chaplain of a Rotary Club Home for Boys at Lancaster. The President of this Home's Board is one of our most faithful laymen and is anxious to have this kind of leadership for the Home. The young man wishes, however, to be ordained when he finishes school, and will not accept this Home position if it will in any way jeopardize his eligibility for ordination. My initial reaction is that where we can place a minister in such a position and he finds himself at home in it, it not only reflects credit on the Church but also assures Protestant religious influence in the life and work of the institution, and that we should probably therefore consider such an appointment as not jeopardizing the man's eligibility for ordination.

World Council Building Quota. At its February meeting General Council voted to "recommend that the sum of $9,025 accepted as our quota of the total cost of the construction of the headquarters building of the World Council of Churches at Geneva be referred to the Commission on World Service for payment". I think we were reasonably sound in our feeling that since this is a project which would strengthen the administrative facilities of the ecumenical movement, and since our own budgetary resources were too tightly drawn for us to care for this obligation otherwise, we might ask the Commission to provide for the payment of this sum. A letter from D. J. Snyder, Jr., secretary of the Commission, reported as follows: "After due consideration, the Commission took the following action: Motion was duly made and carried that the Commission did not feel that the payment of such an item came within the purview and authority

of the Commission on World Service since the Commission is not represented in any way on the World Council". I do not suggest that we renew this request to the Commission, but I do believe that we might well remind the Commission that it is represented in the World Council just as truly as is every other agency of the Church, by the six delegates who represented us all at the Evanston Assembly and by the President of the Church as a member of the Central Committee. In the latter instance it should probably be noted that the President's own interest and concern was probably more strongly with the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees than with any other phase of World Council work,- an interest and concern which further moved him to devote 18 days of the summer of 1955 in Germany doing practically nothing but visit refugee and relief installations and personnel there.

A Special Welcome to Cincinnati. In connection with arrangements to hold our next meeting February 5-7 in Cincinnati, General Council will wish to take note of the following words of welcome transmitted by our pastor, the Rev. Robert E. Briggeman. "At our January meeting of the Evangelical and Reformed and Congregational Christian Ministerium, Dr. Herbster told us he had invited the General Council to meet in Cincinnati in February of 1957. We also want to extend to you and the Council our welcome to our fair city. We hope that we can help to make your stay here an enjoyable one. If our local group can serve you in any way we will be happy to do so."

Conclusion

I will conclude this report by noting that I am now definitely scheduled to leave February 28 for a visit to our fields in Honduras and Ecuador, and that meanwhile, God willing, I shall leave Nobember 14 for a five-week trip which will include: Anchorage, Alaska (26-hour layover); Japan (a total of 14 days); Korea (four days), Okinawa (33 hours), Formosa (three days), Hong Kong (four days), the Philippines (four days), and a 14-hour daytime stopover in Honolulu on the way home, hoping to get home on December 21. Objectives of the trip have multiplied and now include visits to our missionaries and mission institutions in Japan and Hong Kong, a look in on interdenominational enterprises on Okinawa and Formosa where we have relatively small but significant financial participation, sight of some of the fruits of our World Service work in Korea and Hong Kong and elsewhere, renewal of certain ecumenical friendships and associations and perhaps the making of new ones, calls on some of our Congregational Christian personnel at various places enroute, visits with some of our chaplains stationed in areas I shall visit, and with it all getting a little clearer understanding of the new problems and tasks confronting our work and witness overseas and of the situation in some of the younger national churches. This is certainly not a vacation or sight-seeing trip, and I undertake it only because I am convinced that there are many reasons why, as President of the Church, I should visit these and other areas where we have missionary and ecumenical interests, and do so as soon as circumstances will permit. I covet a remembrance in your prayers.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES E. WAGNER, President.

PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE, February 1, 1956 - October 31, 1956

February 1-2 - New York City, National Council of Churches, General Board, General Nominating Committee
5 - Kansas City, Mo., SERMON, St. Peter's Church
6-9 - Kansas City, Mo., General Council
11 - Cincinnati, Ohio, ADDRESS, E&R Directors of Religious Education
13 - Lancaster, Pa., ADDRESS, Hamilton Park Church Brotherhood meeting
14 - Irwin, Pa., ADDRESS, Consistories of Westmoreland Area
17 - Philadelphia, Pa., Met with representative of U.S.State Dept.
19 - St. Louis, Mo., Morning, TWO SERMONS, Friedens Chapel and Church
Afternoon, SERMON, Installation of Full-time Synod President
20 - St. Louis, Mo., ADDRESS, Eden Seminary, Convocation
21 - Easton, Pa., SERMON, Community Lenten Service
22 - Pittsburgh, Pa., ADDRESS, North American Area Council of Alliance
26 - Williamsport, Pa., Morning, SERMON, Immanuel Church
Evening, SERMON, Pine Street Methodist Church

March 1 - New York City, Conference with Dr. Buschmeyer
2 - New Haven, Conn., Visit with E & R students at Yale
3-4 - Framingham, Mass., ADDRESS, Joint ER -CC Training Conference
5-6 - Cleveland, Ohio, Joint Planning Committee
7 - Doylestown, Pa., ADDRESS, Rotary Club
11 - Altoona, Pa., Morning and Evening SERMONS, Fourth Street Church of God, 50th anniversary
16-17 - Camp Fernbrook, All-Staff Conference
18 - Allentown, Pa., SERMON, St. James Church, Dedication of new Church School Building
22 - New York City, Conference with Dr. Buschmeyer
28 - South Bend, Ind., Noon, SERMON, Union Lenten Service
Evening, SERMON, Zion Church

April 1 - Lancaster, Pa., SERMON, Union Easter Service
4 - New York City, Meeting of Denominational Representatives
5 - New York City, Joint Meeting ER General Council and CC Executive Committee
8 - Philadelphia, Pa., SERMON, Mt. Hermon Church
10 - North Wisconsin Synod, Sheboygan, ADDRESS, Regional Conference of Church Council Members
11 - North Wisconsin Synod, Plymouth, ADDRESS, Chapel, Mission House and Seminar for Seniors
Kaukauna, ADDRESS, Regional Conference of Church Council Members
12 - North Wisconsin Synod, Wausau, ADDRESS, Regional Conference
15 - Mercersburg, Pa., SERMON, Mercersburg Academy
19 - Philadelphia, Pa., ADDRESS, Phi Alpha Club (ministers' fraternity)
22 - Irvington, N.J., Morning, TWO SERMONS, First CC Church
Afternoon, ADDRESS, N.J. Association of C.C.C.
24-26 - Denominational Representative, ADDRESS, Kansas City Synod
30 - Philadelphia, Pa., ADDRESS, Faith Church Brotherhood Meeting

May 2 - Burlington, N.C., TWO ADDRESSES, Southern Convention of C.C.C.
6 - Bethlehem, Pa., SERMON, Zion Church, 60th anniversary
13 - Danville, Pa., SERMON, Shiloh Church, 100th anniversary
14 - Lancaster, Pa., SERMON, Service of Thanksgiving and Praise, end of first decade of United Churches of Lancaster County
15 - Chicago, Ill., ADDRESS, Faith United Church, birthday of union
18 - Philadelphia, Pa., Testified in Garrett Estate Case

President's Schedule - 2

May
20 - Akron, Ohio, TWO SERMONS, Grace Church
22-23 - Denominational Representative, ADDRESS, Northeast Ohio Synod
24-25 - Denominational Representative, ADDRESS, Northwest Ohio Synod
27 - Michigan City, Ind., SERMON, St. John's Church, 100th anniversary
28 - Cleveland, Ohio, Administrative Committee

June
1 - Lancaster, Pa., Board of Trustees, Franklin and Marshall College
3 - Shrewsbury, Pa., TWO SERMONS, Sadler Church & Shrewsbury Church
5-6 - Denominational Representative, ADDRESS, Philadelphia Synod
14 - York, Pa., ADDRESS, Public Meeting in connection with annual meeting of Commission on Stewardship
17 - Plymouth, Wis., ADDRESS, E & R Day, Joint Brotherhoods
20-23 - Milwaukee, Wis., ADDRESS, Churchmen's Brotherhood Convention
24-27 - Omaha, Nebr., CC General Council
SERMON, Western Hills E & R Anniversary
ADDRESS, E & R Regional Meeting
ADDRESS to General Council
ADDRESS on E&R Church government to CC Laymen's group
30 - Rochester, N.Y., ADDRESS, Consistories of Rochester area

July
1 - Rochester, N.Y., SERMON, Salem Church
2-22 - Vacation
29 - Womelsdorf, Pa., ADDRESS, Dedication of Brobst Cottage, Bethany

August
2 - Allentown, Pa., ADDRESS, Spiritual Conference, Cedar Crest
7 - Lancaster, Pa., Board of Trustees, Franklin and Marshall College
12 - Shillington, Pa., SERMON, Immanuel Church
19 - Wheeling, W.Va., SERMON, Sunday Vespers (union service)
31 - Lancaster, Pa., General Council Meeting
SERMON, Opening Service of General Synod

September
1-7 - Lancaster, Pa., General Synod
9 - Bainbridge, Md., SERMON, U.S. Naval Training Center
12 - Cleveland, Ohio, ADDRESS, Kingdom Service Conference
16 - Philadelphia, Pa., SERMON, First Church, Installation of pastor
Afternoon, Spring City, Pa., SERMON, East Vincent Church, 200th anniversary
17 - Thomasville, Pa., SERMON, Paradise Church, dedication new bldg.
18 - Lancaster, Pa., ADDRESS, Kiwanis Club
23 - Morning, Huntington, Ind., SERMON, ST. Peter's Church, Centennial
Evening, Jackson,Mich., SERMON, Installation of Full-time Pres.
26-27 - Enhaut, Pa., TWO ADDRESSES, East Pa. Eldership, Churches of God
30 - Boyertown, Pa., Church of the Good Shepherd, Rally Day ADDRESS and SERMON

October
6 - Glenolden, Pa., ADDRESS, Congregational Church dinner
7 - Norristown, Pa., SERMON, Christ Church, 60th anniversary and re-dedication
8 - Milltown, N.J., ADDRESS, St. Paul Church dinner
14 - Morning, Philadelphia, Pa., TWO SERMONS, Faith Church
Afternoon, Gilbertsville, Pa., SERMON, Falkner Swamp Church, anniversary service
15 - Williamsport, Pa.,ADDRESS, Council of Churches anniversary dinner
19 - Lancaster, Pa., Franklin and Marshall, Founders Day Convocation
21 - Gilbert, Pa., TWO SERMONS, Salem Church, 150th anniversary
23-24 - Cleveland, Ohio, General Council
25 - Cleveland, Ohio, Joint Meeting, ER General Council and CC Executive Committee
28 - Burlington, Iowa, SERMON, First Church, Reformation Service
31 - Cleveland, Ohio, Annual Conference of Synod Presidents

RESPONSIBILITIES PLACED IN THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT:

1. Correlation of program of the Church through Boards, Commissions and Auxiliary Organizations

This entails:
(a) Meeting with these bodies at such time and in such places as their meetings are scheduled. Schedule cleared through this office to avoid conflict as much as possible.
(b) Correspondence with the above mentioned bodies through their executives and staff personnel.
(c) Counselling with these groups and executives on matters of personnel and policy as these are related to the total work of the Church.
(d) Establishing the Agenda for the Committee on Correlation and Promotion.

2. Oversight of the work of the Department of United Promotion

This has been done through staff meetings, counselling with the Co-Directors, suggestions concerning promotional materials and proposals presented to the Committee on Correlation and Promotion and to General Council. This Office has also expressed itself with regard to personnel proposals.

The above procedure has been followed since 1954 for reasons which are quite obvious to all who know the manner in which the Department of United Promotion has operated since the resignation of Dr. J. N. LeVan.

It is well to add here that this office has been consulted concerning every major proposal presented to the Church by the Department.

It is my conviction that such relationship as this office has had with the Department of United Promotion should be continued so long as the Department continues with Co-Directors.

3. Scheduling of the Fall and Spring Meetings of the Synods

(a) Correspondence with all Boards, etc., and with Synod Presidents concerning dates, places of meeting, zonal representation.
(b) Scheduling of General Council members as denominational representatives to Spring Synod meetings.

4. Preparation, w ith the President of the Church, of the Agenda for Annual Conference of Synod Presidents

(a) All correspondence with Synod presidents and with persons to appear on agenda.

5. Assignment of General Council members to meetings of Boards, Commissions and Auxiliary Organizations

6. Correspondence with all Boards, Commissions and Auxiliary Organizations and Educational Institutions concerning reports of Blue Book for Synods and General Synod

(a) Edited most of the copy.

7. Public Relations - with Congregational Christian Office of Communication.

8. This office supervised distribution of materials relative to the union with the Congregational Christian Churches.

9. The Administrative Assistant has served as member of Joint Planning Commitee, (CC-E&R):
   (a) Responsible for CC-E&R post-Easter (1956) pulpit exchange.
   (b) Joint laymen's meetings (CC-E&R)

10. Served on Committee on Constitutional Matters

   (a) Prepared copy of Amendments to Constitution and By-Laws for submission to Synods.
   (b) Edited copy of Constitution and By-Laws for local congregation.

11. Advisory member of Committee on Student Loans (Commission on Church and Ministry)

12. Member of Budget and Business and Finance Committees of National Council.

13. Representative of E&R Church on Department of Religious Liberty of the National Council of Churches and member of Executive Committee.

14. Represented the President of the Church (largely in capacity as Director of Correlation and as one responsible for Department of United Promotion) in joint meetings of persons representing E&R and CC Boards and Agencies and the Department of United Promotion in planning for joint work and in looking toward eventual merger of this work in United Church. This has been a demanding area of work but a fruitful one. It would seem that this area of work will expand in the years ahead.

15. Shared in joint meetings of CC Executive Committee and E&R General Council.

16. Correspondence with Synod Presidents on a variety of matters which would otherwise come to the desk of the President of the Church.

17. General Synod:
   (a) Assumed, by request of the President of the Church, major responsibility for physical arrangements for General Synod.
   (b) Arranged, with cooperation of CC Office of Communication, for press coverage of General Synod meetings.
   (c) Arranged with pastoral delegates to General Synod to fill pulpits in Lancaster area on September 2.

18. Investigated accident insurance coverage for executives, staff personnel, Synod Presidents and General Council members. Presented plan to General Council. Correspondence with all persons concerned and completion of plan.

19. Have handled such assignments as have been given this office from time to time by the President of the Church and General Council.

20. Participated in planning for and carried on correspondence necessary to arrange All-Staff Conference. The Conference will be continued from year to year, and as Director of Correlation this office will have responsibility.

21 Have called CC and E&R Groups together for consultation concerning replacement or addition of Staff personnel. This has been done in anticipation of merged work in the United Church.

22. Have accepted as many requests as possible which have come to my office from Synods, local congregations, educational and benevolent institutions, for conferences, addresses, or sermons. This has been done at the request of the President of the Church and enables the Administrative Assistant to represent the Church to our people.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON PERSONS GRANTED PRIVILEGE OF CALL OR RENEWAL OF PRIVILEGE OF CALL BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE, OR WHO ARE APPLYING FOR IT

Applications for Privilege of Call Approved by the Administrative Committee

Rev. Clayton Harding Chapman, R. 1, Macungie, Pa. Age 48. Schooling: Boston University, Andover Newton Theological School. Ordained by the Northern Baptist Church in 1933. Married. References: Dr. Dale H. Moore, Rev. Clarence H. Moatz, Rev. Gordon H. Sperry, Dr. LeRoy B. Burkhart.

Rev. Louis Gasper, 1631 Elmwood Avenue, Lakewood 7, Ohio. Age 45. Schooling: Bowling Green State University, Ohio State University and Western Reserve University, Winebrenner Grad. School of Divinity. Ordained by the American Baptist Church in 1940. Married. References: Rev. Stanley L. Fritz, Rev. Walter K. Klein.

Rev. Mervin Andrew Heller, Central Y.M.C.A. Building, Reading, Pa. Age 48. Schooling: Muhlenberg College, Crozer Theological Seminary. Ordained by the American Baptist Convention in 1935. Married, one son. References: Dr. Sheldon E. Mackey, Dr. Paul T. Slinghoff, Dr. Daniel J. Wetzel, Dr. Lee M. Erdman, Rev. Chester L. Marcus, Rev. Frank A. Rosenberger.

Rev. Thomas Richard Herbert, Franklin, Vermont. Age 27. Schooling: Catawba College, Salisbury, N C.; Andover Newton Theological School. Ordained by the Congregational Christian Churches in 1954. Married, no family. References: Dr. Lionel A. Whiston, Jr., Dr. Bruce A. Wentz, Rev. G. Harold Myers, Dr. Truman A. Crist.

Rev. Harold S. Kinard, Box 14, Markleysburg, Pa. Age 39. Schooling: Moravian College for Men, Bethlehem, Pa.; Denominational Course and Lighthouse Bible College. Married, no family. Ordained by Churches of God in North America in 1945. References: Rev. A. E. Master. The Administrative Committee VOTED to grant privilege of call with the proviso that he undertake a program of guided study under the direction of the chairman of Pittsburgh Synod's Committee on Church and Ministry, that his reception into our ministry be dependent upon the fulfillment of this condition, and that any charge to which he is called be fully informed as to this requirement.

Rev. Lester W. Muller, Otley, Iowa. Age 44. Schooling: Central College, Pella, Iowa; Western Theological Seminary, Holland, Mich. Ordained by the Reformed Church in America in 1940. Married, family. References: Rev. Otto R. Gerber, Rev. Roland G. Kley, Rev. George A. Bartell, Rev. John F. Schortinghuis.

Rev. Tibor M. Szilagyi, 838 West End Ave., 2-D, New York 25, New York. Age 49. Has taken steps to acquire citizenship. Schooling: High School (Gymnasium), Beregszasz, Olmutz University, Versailles University, Eperjes University, Faculty of Law, Debrecen. Ordained by Dioces of Eperjes in 1933. Married, family. References: Rev. S. M. Boszormenyi, Rev. Imre Kovacs, Rev. Laszlo Kecskemethy.

Rev. Kalman D. Toth, 534 22nd Avenue, West, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Age 41. Schooling: Kiskunhalas College, Hungary; Szeged University, Hungary; Budapest Seminary, Hungary; Seminary, Halle, Germany; Princeton Seminary, Princeton, N.J.; Union Theological Seminary, New York City. Ordained by the Reformed Church in Hungary in 1941. Married, 3 children. References: Dr. Alex. Toth, Rev. L. Kecskemethy.

Application for Renewal of Privilege of Call Approved by Administrative Committee

Rev. George P. Fetterolf, 601 W. Main Street, Sheffield, Pennsylvania. Age 42. Schooling: Catawba College, Salisbury, N.C.; Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, Pa.; Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pa.' Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pa.' the Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa. Ordained by the Evangelical and Reformed Church in 1938. Dropped from the roll under the 5-year rule. Married, has family. References: Rev. Herbert B. Zechman, Rev. Frank A. Reigle, Rev. Clarence T. Moyer, Rev. Frederick A. Rupley. Privilege of Call granted February 10, 1955.

Application for Renewal of Privilege of Call Awaiting Action

Rev. J. Wilson Harner, 1006 E. Butler Ave., Ambler, Penna. Age 43. Schooling: Gettysburg College and Gettysburg Seminary. Ordained by the United Lutheran Church in America in 1940. Married, two children. References: Rev. H. S. Fox, Dr. Allan S. Meck, Dr. Lee J. Gable, Dr. David Dunn, Dr. Bela Vassady. Privilege of Call granted October 11-13, 1955.

Applications for Privilege of Call Awaiting Action

Lowell H. Zuck, 475 E. Lockwood Ave., Webster Groves, Mo. Schooling: Elizabethtown College, Pa., Bethany Seminary, Chicago, Yale University and Divinity School. Ordained by Church of the Brethren in 1950. Married. Assistant Professor of Church History at Eden Seminary since August 1955. Became member of Webster Groves E & R Church March 18, 1956.

Alfred Irving Sager, Karla Drive (Maplecrest), Whippany, N.J. Age 42. Schooling: University of Chattanooga, Tennessee, Princeton Theological Seminary. Ordained by the Presbyterian Church USA in 1950. Married. References: Rev. Russell D. Custer, Rev. Clyde F. Straub.

Application for Privilege of Call Approved by Administrative Committee pending Synodical Action

Rev. M. Earle McCullough, 597 Sylvan Place, Haworth, N.J. Age 37. Schooling: University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C., Yale Divinity School, New Haven, Conn.; Union Seminary, two summer sessions. Ordained by the Methodist Church in 1943 as a deacon and in 1946 as an elder. At present a minister in the Congregational Christian Churches. Married, two children. References: Rev. William E. Wimer, Rev. Theodore Boltz.

SUMMARY OF 1955 CONTRIBUTIONS TO
UNITS OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
from the
EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH AND ITS AGENCIES

General Council	$25,499.00	General Undesignated Account	$12,300.00
		Department of the Ministry	500.00
		Conference on Social Welfare	2,820.00
		Department of Religious Liberty	1,000.00
		Joint Department of Stewardship and Benevolence	432.00
		United Church Canvass	247.00
		Broadcasting and Film Commission	7,500.00
		Washington Office	700.00
Department of United Promotion	6,100.00	Broadcasting and Film Commission	6,100.00
Board of National Missions	12,788.68	Joint Commission on Missionary Education	550.00
		Missionary Services Department (Student Volunteer Movement)	150.00
		Quadrennial Conference	180.00
		American Communities Overseas	1,000.00
		Division of Home Missions (General Administration)	2,405.00
		Migrant Work	3,458.68
		Indian Work	225.00
		Department of Town and Country Church	1,060.00
		Department of the Urban Church	1,250.00
		American Committee on Christian Approach to Jews	285.00
		Office of Program Research	675.00
		Broadcasting and Film Commission	700.00
		Bureau of Church Building	850.00
Board of International Missions	31,906.00	Joint Commission on Missionary Education	500.00
		Missionary Services Department (Student Volunteer Movement)	550.00
		Quadrennial Conference	420.00
		Division of Foreign Missions (General Administration)	3,198.00
		Administration of Program Units	4,200.00
		Office of Program Research	600.00
		Broadcasting and Film Commission	150.00
		Rural Missions Cooperating Committee	600.00
		American Communities Overseas	2,000.00
		For Coordinated Efforts in Africa	60.00
		Latin America	468.00
		Far Eastern Joint Office	10,410.00
		Southern Asia	825.00
		Near East	125.00
		RAVEMCCO (Radio, Visual Education and Mass Communication Committee)	4,400.00
		Literacy and Literature	3,400.00

Summary of 1955 Contributions to Units of N.C.C. - 2

Board of Christian Education and Publication	$ 7,933.10	Commission on General Christian Education (including administration of the Div.)	$ 5,300.10
		Commission on Christian Higher Education	
		Interseminary Committee	150.00
		Campus Christian Life	400.00
		United Student Christian Council	1,883.00
		Joint Commission on Missionary Education	100.00
		Joint Department of Evangelism	100.00
Commission on Christian Social Action	420.00	Department of Racial and Cultural Relations	170.00
		Department of Social Welfare	250.00
Commission on Church and Ministry	300.00	Department of the Ministry	300.00
Commission on Benevolent Institutions	300.00	Department of Social Welfare	300.00
Commission on Stewardship	679.00	Department of Stewardship and Benevolence	432.00
		United Church Canvass	247.00
Commission on World Service	279,056.00	Commission on General Christian Education (including administration of Div. of C.E.)	1,500.00
		Church World Service	8,850.00
		Department of Ecumenical Relations	2,700.00
		Far Eastern Joint Office	1,000.00
		For Coordinated Efforts Overseas	
		Migration Services Program	18,000.00
		Material Relief Program	40,000.00
		Surplus Commodities	100,000.00
		Program in Asia	86,120.00
		Program in Europe	17,136.00
		One Great Hour of Sharing	3,750.00
Women's Guild	8,703.90	Commission on General Christian Education (including administration,Div.of C.E.)	300.00
		Joint Commission on Missionary Education	600.00
		Division of Christian Life and Work (General Administration)	300.00
		Division of Foreign Missions (General Administration)	300.00
		(Administration of Program Units)	1,200.00
		Division of Home Missions (General Administration)	300.00
		(Migrant Work)	900.00
		(Indian Work)	1,400.00
		(Town and Country Church	650.00
		General Department United Church Women	1,750.00
		For Coordinated Efforts Overseas Literacy and Literature	1,003.90

Churchmen's Brotherhood	$ 300.00	General Department of United Church Men	$ 300.00
Youth Fellowship	570.75	Commission on General Christian Education (including Administration of Div.of C.E.)	570.75
Local Churches Directly	5,139.91	General Undesignated Account	4,103.56
		Joint Department of Evangelism	724.58
		General Department of United Church Women	65.00
		For Coordinated Efforts Overseas	
		Division of Foreign Missions	202.42
		Church World Service	44.35
Grand Total	$379,696.34		$379,696.34
CWS Overseas	266,006.00		266,006.00
Total Less CWS-O	113,690.34		113,690.34

NOTE: Several observations should be kept in mind in evaluating the above tabulation:

1. In most instances, contributions of an agency to one or more NCC units are present-day counterparts to contributions that agency made to a previously existing independent agency. For example: contributions of the Board of National Missions to the NCC Division of Home Missions, formerly made to the Home Missions Council.

2. As indicated above, more than two-thirds of total Evangelical and Reformed monies sent to the NCC are remittances to Church World Service from our Commission on World Service toward overseas projects in which our Commission works through CWS.

3. A tabulation presented to General Council several years ago showed that our total contributions, compared with those of other member-denominations, were not at all out of proportion.

A PLAN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION FOUNDATION OF THE EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH

THE PLAN

1. The purpose of the Foundation is to provide funds for the financing of buildings and equipment for our homes for the aged, orphanages, hospitals, and perhaps for our colleges and seminaries; and later help our National Mission Board.

2. The funds would be provided by selling an average of a thousand (1000) One Thousand Dollar ($1000) Life Interest Bonds in each of our thirty-four synods over a period of ten years. This would yield $34,000,000.00 over a ten year period. The selling of one hundred (100) $1000 bonds a year in each synod for ten years will achieve this goal.

3. The proceeds from the sale of these bonds would be invested by the Foundation through an investments agency such as the Girard Trust Company of Philadelphia, Pa., or the Chase National Bank. All the earnings, except a small percentage (say 2 to 4%) for operating expenses, will enure to the bond holder. Upon the decease of the bond holder the principle of their bonds will be allocated to the participating institution of the Foundation.

   Under this plan, the Church, nor any institution of the Church, would in no way be involved in meeting the obligations to the bond holder. It would be the sole responsibility of the Foundation to sell the bonds and to invest them through its agencies, and distribute its net earnings to the bond holders.

4. The Foundation would be incorporated as a non-profit corporation and would operate on a full-time basis indefinitely.

5. The Board of Directors should be composed of men in the Church who know finance and its members chosen by the bond holders.

6. The Foundation should establish branches conveniently located in each synod and have as its representatives some of our retired ministers and laymen of the Church who are physically able to render some service to the Church and supplement, to some extent, their meager pensions.

7. The Foundation would operate quietly throughout the Church. There would be no campaigns. The only part that the minister in a church or charge would take in the program would be to suggest to the representative the names of some people in his church who could purchase a $250, $500, or $1000 Life Bond.

8. It should be noted that this plan differs from the old annuity systems. In the old systems, the proceeds from the sale of the bonds go directly to the institution or Board issuing them and the interests thereof must come from the budget of the Institution or Board. Under this plan, the institutions do not benefit until the decease of the bond holder. His interest is earned by the Foundation. The interests under the old system usually range from five to twelve percent. This places a great burd en upon the resources of the institution which issues them. The Life Bond Plan removes this burden. The Life Bond Plan will make it possible for an individual to make a life investment for himself and leave a memorial to the Church after death.

9. The plan, as outlined above, may seem too big and perhaps too ambitious. Yet nothing is impossible with the help of God. If General Synod will grant permission to establish such a Foundation in the name of the Church, it would remove, to a very great extent, the necessity of having special money-raising campaigns for buildings and equipment for our benevolent institutions. It would be the business of the Foundation to provide such funds.

The task of creating such a large fund as suggested above should not be too great. Over a long period of years, the fund should grow even greater than $34,000,000.00.

The question might be asked: How would this plan affect the merger? It should not affect it at all. It should help it rather than hinder it because it would create a very much greater number of potential sales.

Believing that a Foundation such as outlined above is possible, I hereby submit this plan for the consideration and, if deemed wise, action of General Synod.

Respectfully submitted,

Alvin F. Dietz

Centre Hall, Penna.

GENERAL SYNOD'S COMMITTEE ON LITURGICS

Meeting at Lancaster, Pa., August 27 - 28th, 1956

Devotions by Chairman Louis H. Gunnemann at 9:30 a.m. August 27th opened the meeting of the Committee on Liturgics at Lancaster, Pa. Present for the meeting were Paul E. Schmoyer, D. Bard Thompson, Howard Paine, Louis H. Gunnemann, and Friedrich Rest. Not present at the meeting were John P. Fespermann, who was not back from Europe and Rev. Samuel Schmiechen, who was unable to use his plane ticket due to a funeral which he had to conduct on the afternoon of August 27th.

The proposed agenda was adopted.

We agreed to dispense with the reading of the minutes since mimeographed copies of the same had been distributed previously by mail.

A number of communications were read. Loren Walters reported that at the Fourth Annual Meeting of the Directors of Christian Education a request came for a Service of Consecration for a Director of Christian Education. Albert W. Kovacs asked for a definite statement on the use of colored hangings and the use of Gregorian chants. A decision was later made to reserve material of this type for the Handbook to the Book of Worship. A committee from the Worship Convocation, meeting at Reading, reported an expressed need of education in the field of worship and its own hope that the Committee on Liturgics could meet that need through clinics or talks on worship in connection with the work of the Committee on Church and Ministry. Decided: Our "committee would express to General Council our willingness to serve in in-service training in the field of worship." Hoyt Whitebread expressed the thought in a letter that he prefers the King James or the American Standard Version. Dr. Paul M. Schroeder's letter favored the R. S. V. Miss Louise Auchenbach of the W. G. sent manuscript copies of the Thank-offering, Ascension Day, and Lenten Quiet Hour

services for review by our committee. Due to summer vacations only the chairman of our committee was able to review them, which he had to do before an immediate dead-line. The committee was grateful for having received worship materials from one of the organizations of our Church, in response to the request of the committee to be of service to the boards and agencies of our Church. Robert C. Stanger, quite unofficially, wrote that he preferred "Opening Sentence" to "Solemn Declaration," that the Book of Stated Prayers should be full of pastoral prayers of the type which is found in "Prayers For the Christian Year" (Oxford University Press, 1935 & 1952) and "Evangelical Book of Worship" if it is to meet the needs which were expressed previously to the Committee on Liturgics. He was also happy to note that the Baptismal Service was undergoing revision. Oliver C. Hotz expressed his dislike of the History of Our Lord's Passion pamphlets described on page 283 of the 1955-1956 Catalogue. He would like to have the story set up so that it can be used in responsive fashion. G. S. Thilking expressed the desire of having one Order for Marriage, with communion as an alternate ending.

Reports on assignments were then made, which were followed by discussions and quite often by revisions.

"The Order of Worship for the Lord's Day" was presented by Paul Schmoyer and Howard Paine. Revisions in accordance with the 1955 version were incorporated in the newly presented copy, which was carefully considered by the entire committee. The approved copy, together with the revised and approved interpretation, is to go to the printer to be issued in pamphlet form for provisional use by pastors and people in about 100 selected churches.

Rest reported on the prayers for the weekly bulletins, indicating that so far in '56 only prayers for Easter and Independence Day have appeared, that five original prayers have not been used so far and that

six other original prayers from "Worship Aids for 52 Services" were sent in view of the fact that a sufficient supply of prayers by other committee members was not available. Three prayers by committee members appeared in 1955 on weekly bulletins. For the next year the following assignments for writing new brief prayers were accepted: Paine--Advent; Gunnemann--Epiphany; Schmoyer--Lent; Thompson--Easter and the Sundays after; Rest--Special days; Schmiechen will be asked to write some original prayers for use on some of the Sundays during the Trinity Season. Prayers with carbon copies may be sent to Rest who will send them to Dr. L. C. T. Miller.

An Order for the Installation of a Synod President was presented next by Schmoyer. A rubric is to be inserted which will state the assumption that the order is to be used as part of a regular order of worship, rather than being a complete order in itself. In view of the fact that we could think of no better symbols than the gavel and record book, it was decided--after much discussion--to retain this part of the order, with the omission of the statement, referring to the President's Record Book, "in which the record of your stewardship shall appear." But a rubric preceeding these symbols would explain that their use is permissable. The material on the gavel and record book might be put in smaller type than the rest of the order. One or two other minor changes were agreed upon. It was voted by a narrow margin to leave the paragraph remain which states "Reverend Sir, this is to certify that the _____ _____ has been duly elected president . . ."

No report was given for the "Order for the Reception of Churches and Ministers by Synods."

Schmoyer and Rest reported that in order to save travel time and expense they agreed to have a sub-committee meeting on pericopal items the day following this meeting, rather than arrange a separate meeting before this meeting.

It was decided to have an Order for the Reception of New Members which would be composed of two parts: one, to receive people from other churches by letter of transfer or profession of faith; and two, restoration to communicant membership. The majority of the committee members felt that reception by Adult Baptism could not be combined with other forms.

Paine had a number of questions regarding the scope of the proposed Book of Stated Prayers. Tentatively entitled "Prayers for Church and Home" for the use of pastors and lay leaders and families, the committee decided that the book would include Church Year material such as seasonal and festival general prayers, litanies, and other aids such as prayers for Rogation days, Reformation day, Harvest Home, World Wide Communion Sunday, Memorial Sunday, etc.; the Church in general, prayers for the ministry, missions, schools, benevolent institutions, judicatories of the church, church meetings, etc.; and prayers for the Nation, including prayers for those in authority, for society and community, race relations, etc. The chairman suggested a book up to 70 pages and learned that Mr. Wm. Pelster of Eden Publishing House would be willing to publish a book of this type which could be sold for about 60 or 65 cents each. Paine is to write new pastoral prayers and continue working on the Treasury of Prayers for this book.

Paine felt that the form for the visitation of the sick in the Book of Worship did not need any revision beyond punctuation.

Paine submitted a form for the burial of a still born infant which was amended by the committee and adopted.

"A prayer upon the occasion of a suicide" was referred back to Paine for further revision.

Gunnemann presented the revised Order for Holy Communion, which incorporated all the suggestions made in the 1955 meeting. However, the prayer of thanksgiving was replaced by committee action with

another prayer. A rubric permitting simultaneous communion of pastor and people was not allowed because the thought was expressed that the doctrine of ordination was at stake.

Gunnemann next reported on An order for Holy Communion which was adopted as revised by the committee. It was moved, seconded and carried that this order in revised form be printed on a page size suitable for temporary enclosure in hymnals for use among about 100 congregations to be selected by Gunnemann, Schmiechen and Rest. Congregations as well as ministers will use copies of this form.

Gunnemann next reported on some Scriptural passages which are to be included in the Order for Installation of a Minister. The committee would also put the word "faithfully" after "duties" rather than where it is on p. 318.

Gunnemann next reported on the Order for Confirmation giving revisions of page 263, Book of Worship, beginning with line 3. Approved as amended. Two blessings from the old "E" Book of Worship were added. The blessings begin with the words "The love of Christ so constrain you . . ." and "Our Lord Jesus Christ . . ." (page 186). The blessing "Defend, O Lord" from the E & R Book is to be deleted since it is a prayer rather than a blessing. The memory verse which may be given in confirmation just before the blessing is a suggestion which will be reserved for the Handbook.

Gunnemann presented the Order for Marriage. Report was adopted as revised. The suggestion from correspondence of having an alternate communion ending was not included.

Thompson submitted a survey of 14 seals of Luther, Melanchthon, Wittenberg, John Calvin, Geneva, Zwingli and Zurich, the other Reformed Churches, showing drawings of the symbols on large cards, some of them in color. It was decided to display the seals at General Synod as part of the research required to prepare a denominational coat of arms.

The Thompsons will prepare some tentative suggestions for the coat of arms, which will be reviewed later by the committee and sent to General Council.

No report on the basic philosophy of the committee was given.

Other assignments were then made as follows: Story of our Lord's Passion--Schmiechen; Baptismal Services--Schmoyer; Dedications--Rest; Consecration of Director of Christian Education--Gunnemann; An Order of Worship for the Lord's Day--Gunnemann and Rest; Musical Setting on tape--Schmoyer; Ordination of a Minister--Schmoyer, with particular reference to the questions on page 315.

Other items left for the future were Installation of a Superintendent of a Benevolent Institution and Forms of Licensure, after the Theological Committee has something to say.

References again were made to available surveys regarding the use of the BOOK OF WORSHIP. Paine pointed out from his brother's dissertation at Lancaster in 1951 that only 8% of the 1395 ministers who returned the questionnaire use all of the Order of Worship for the Lord's Day. 33% of the ministers use the Collect regularly. Rest alluded to Donald Hafner's thesis, pointing out that a similar lack of use still prevails among the more recent graduates regarding some of the other sections in the BOOK OF WORSHIP, although some forms do have a somewhat wider acceptance. A detailed summary of the latter thesis was distributed to committee members in 1953.

Unresolved was the ultimate purpose of the BOOK OF WORSHIP. Is it to be a book of liturgical norms or a book of liturgical and semi-liturgical material for the pastors and congregations of varying backgrounds in our Church? It was understood that the best liturgical principles ought not be violated in any case.

It was decided the next meeting of the committee will take place in Nashville sometime during the last week in February or the first

week in March, 1957. Expenses were then listed. At 8 p.m. Tuesday there was a motion to adjourn. The meeting was closed with a prayer by Chairman Gunnemann.

Respectfully submitted,

Friedrich Rest, Secretary

REFERENCES FROM THE 1956 GENERAL SYNOD

A. Elections and appointments

I. Ecumenical representatives

For the next triennium the General Synod authorizes the General Council to act in its behalf in appointing the ecumenical representatives.

Report of Committee 3b (General Council and Trustees): amendment to item 6

a. American Bible Society

Representative on Advisory Council

b. Lord's Day Alliance

Representative on Board of Managers

c. National Council of Churches

1. Delegates and alternates
2. General Board: Representatives and alternates

d. Alliance of Reformed Churches

1. Delegates to North American Area Council
2. Delegates to General Council, 1959 or 1960

The General Synod authorizes the General Council to appoint, within the quota assigned to us, as many delegates to the meeting of the General Council of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches as our relative interest and the resources of our Ecumenical Travel Fund will permit.

Report of Committee 22 (Ecumenical Matters): item 7

e. World Council of Churches

1. United States Conference: Representatives
2. Third Assembly, 1960: Delegates and accredited visitors

II. Special committees

a. Committee on the Programs and Needs of the Theological Seminaries

The General Synod authorizes the appointment of a committee by the General Council:

(1) to study the facilities and programs of the three seminaries and to bring in recommendations for the development and expansion of the same;
(2) to explore the advisability of creating a permanent committee on theological education.

Report of Committee 14 (Higher Education): item 16

b. Committee on the Deaconess Order

The General Synod authorizes the General Council to appoint a special committee to study the problems related to the future of the Deaconess Order, and directs that in creating this committee

representatives of the Commission on Benevolent Institutions and other interested boards, commissions and auxiliary organizations be included.

Report of Committee 18 (Benevolent Institutions): item 6

c. Committee on the Care of the Mentally Ill and the Mentally Retarded

The General Synod instructs the General Council to appoint a committee to study the Church's responsibility in the care of the mentally ill and the mentally retarded.

Report of Committee 18 (Benevolent Institutions): item 8

d. Committee on the Parochial Report Form

The General Synod encourages the Commission on Church and Ministry and the General Council's Committee on Forms and Statistics to study the parochial report form, especially the section on Evan--gelism.

Report of Committee 18 (Benevolent Institutions): item 8

The General Synod directs the General Council's Committee on Forms and Statistics to include on the parochial report form the name of the chairman of the congregational Committee on Evangelism so that his name may be readily available to the synodical Committees on Evangelism as well as to the Commission on Evangelism.

Report of Committee 12 (Evangelism): item 5

B. Union churches

The General Synod directs the General Council, in cooperation with the Union Church Committee of the Committee on Town and Country Church and the presidents of the nine eastern synods, in which nearly all of the 235 union churches are located, to formulate a definite policy and plan of action for these congregations based upon the statement of policy previously produced by the Joint Commission on the Union Church.

Report of Committee 6 (National Missions): item 7

C. Revised edition of the Constitution and By-Laws

The General Synod...authorizes the General Council to make such...changes in the By-Laws as may be necessary to bring them into harmony with the changes adopted by this General Synod, and to renumber all sections of the By-Laws so that they may be in proper relationship.

General Synod minutes, Friday, September 7: page 2

Part C of the Blue Book report (of the General Council's Committee on Constitutional Matters) was adopted.

General Synod minutes, Friday, September 7: page 3

Part C: The Committee on Constitutional Matters requests that in preparing for publication a revised edition of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Church it be authorized to effect such editorial changes (in regard to text, numbering, lettering, etc.) as are consistent with the intent of actions taken by the General Synod and the Synods.

Blue Book for the General Synod: page 322

D. Recommendations of the General Synod's Committee on Nominations

I. Since it is the responsibility and the prerogative of the Nominating Committee of the General Synod to present a slate of nominees to fill the vacancies of the offices, boards, commissions and agencies of the Church, and since this committee desires to present the best possible list of nominees, we welcome the suggestions for nominees from the boards, commissions, agencies and synods. This committee is, however, of the opinion that it is not proper for these boards, commissions, agencies and synods to commit the Nominating Committee to present their suggested persons in nomination by asking the approval of these persons in advance of the Nominating Committee's action. We therefore respectfully request the General Council to instruct the boards, commissions, agencies and synods in this matter for their guidance in cooperating with future Nominating Committees of the General Synod.

II. We recommend that the following be referred to the Committee on Constitutional Matters for its study:
   a. That the same geographical qualifications which apply to the membership on the General Council for representation be extended to membership on boards, commissions and agencies of the Church.
   b. That a clarifying statement be made regarding tenure of office of members of boards of seminaries and colleges. (By-Law 109)

III. We recommend to the General Council that on the information sheet of the offices to be filled by the General Synod, sent to the presidents of the synods from the office of the Secretary of the Church, that requests be made that nominees be named with qualifications and fitness for the office. We suggest that instructions be given presidents of synods that no effort be made to submit a name for every vacancy.

Report of Committee 24 (Nominations): Part 6

E. Financial items

I. Wehrli TV films

The General Synod welcomes the completion of the Wehrli TV films and requests the General Council to explore ways to insure the immediate release of the films inasmuch as the response from congregations in helping to underwrite the films has been inadequate.

Report of Committee 3d (United Promotion): item 13

II. Church papers

a. The General Synod authorizes the continuance of financial support for the promotion of The Messenger in the sum of $5,000.

Report of Committee 9 (Business Management): item 3

b. The General Synod authorizes the continuation of the publication of Der Friedensbote on the present tri-weekly basis, the deficit to be underwritten by the Church.

Report of Committee 9 (Business Management): item 4

c. The General Synod authorizes the continuation of the publication of Reformatusok Lapja on the present bi-weekly basis, the deficit to be underwritten by the Church.

Report of Committee 9 (Business Management): item 5

III. Pensions

a. The General Synod authorizes the General Council to establish $4,000 as the annual base pay for military chaplains upon which they are to pay 3% to the Ministers' Retirement Annuity Fund, whereupon the General Council will pay the 8%. The General Synod directs the Board of Pensions and Relief and the Commission on Church and Ministry to determine the eligibility of each recipient.

Report of Committee 10 (Pensions and Relief): item 4

b. The General Synod approves and authorizes the following recommendations of the Board of Pensions and Relief:

1. A retirement pension of $1,200 a year to a qualified member in good standing in the "E" or "R" Funds who has completed the full term of service or membership defined by the rules of the Fund to which he belongs. The widow's pension shall be 60% thereof.

2. The payment by the General Council to the Board of Pensions and Relief of a sufficient amount of the annual Apportionment to enable the board to carry through the above recommendations.

Report of Committee 10 (Pensions and Relief): item 9

IV. Board of Investments

a. The General Synod recommends to the General Council that they consider as an investment policy for the Board of Investments the following:

Group I--United States Government Bonds, Real Estate Mortgages and Secured Corporate Bonds: a maximum of 35%

Group II--Corporate Debentures and Preferred Stocks: a maximum of 20%

Group III--Common Stocks: a maximum of 45%

Report of Committee 11 (Investments): item 1

b. The General Synod authorizes that funds up to $2,000 be made available from the Contingent Fund to cover contingent expenses of the Board of Investments, which include the salary of the treasurer of the board, the cost of the annual audit, and the traveling expenses of the members of the board.

Report of Committee 23 (Treasurer's Report and Finance): item 3

V. Commission on Higher Education; educational institutions

a. The General Synod grants the Commission on Higher Education an operating budget of $5,000 for each year of the next triennium so that it can meet its obligations in full to its members and to the National Council of Churches, and provide more materials on our schools.

Report of Committee 14 (Higher Education): item 9

b. The General Synod authorizes the payment of no less than $650,000 per annum for the triennium out of the Apportionment to our schools of higher education.

Report of Committee 14 (Higher Education): item 13

VI. Historical Society

The General Synod authorizes the support of the work of this Society with the annual amount of $10,000 for the next triennium.

Report of Committee 19 (Historical Committee): item 3

VII. General Synod Budget

The General Synod approves a total yearly budget of $5,100,000 for the next triennium. The General Synod urges the General Council in allocating the budget now adopted to follow in substance the pattern of allocations proposed by the committee.

Report of Committee 23 (Treasurer's Report and Finance): item 5

VIII. The Apportionment

a. The General Synod approves the proposed new method of assigning the apportionment, and directs that the base for each synod shall be reviewed triennially.

Report of Committee 3b (General Council and Trustees): item 8

b. The General Synod requests the General Council to make an intensive study of dispersing monies received through the Apportionment with a view to determining whether some monies now spent through the General Synod and its agencies might not be allotted to synods to spend.

Report of Committee 3d (United Promotion): item 9

IX. World Service Fund

The General Synod adopts the suggestion of the Commission on World Service and sets as its minimum goal the raising of $600,000 per year for the next triennium to be laid alongside of the general Apportionment so that World Service in the Evangelical and Reformed Church may continue to be a growing phase of our ministry.

Report of Committee 16 (World Service): item 1. Adopted and substituted for item 4 in the report of Committee 23 (Treasurer's Report and Finance.)

X. Emergency Reserve Fund

a. The General Synod authorizes the payment of a special grant of $65,000 out of the interest on the Church's Emergency Reserve Fund to Lakeland College in 1957.

Report of Committee 14 (Higher Education): item 12

b. The General Synod authorizes the enlargement of the Emergency Reserve Fund of the Church by applying the accumulated interest and the yearly interest income to the principal, looking to the day when this Emergency Reserve Fund shall reach a maximum of 50% of the guaranteed advance for any given year.

Report of Committee 23 (Treasurer's Report and Finance): item 2

F. Twenty-fifth anniversary of the Church

The General Synod directs the General Council to make plans for a worthy observance in 1959 of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Report of Committee 3a (President and Secretary): item 8

G. Next meeting of the General Synod

I. The General Synod voted to refer to the General Council an invitation to hold the next General Synod meeting at Elmhurst College.

General Synod minutes, Thursday afternoon, September 6: page 4

II. The General Synod authorizes the General Council to set the time of the 1959 meeting of the General Synod.

General Synod minutes, Thursday evening, September 6: page 2

H. The Union

The General Synod authorizes the General Council to appoint 15 members from the regularly constituted delegation to serve with a like number from the Congregational Christian Churches as the Nominating Committee for the first meeting of the new General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

Report of Committee 3c (The Union): item 3